## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

TO: Escrowtime.net
Robert A. Smith, General Manager
Scott Amos
1435 East Romley Road
Phoenix, AZ 85040

## **DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

(For violations of sections 17200, 17210.2 and 17403 of the California Financial Code)

The California Corporations Commissioner finds that:

- 1. Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos have engaged in the business of an escrow agent by advertising escrow services over the Internet at www.escrowtime.net from 2003 to the present as follows:
- a) Escrowtime.net represents on its website that the process works as follows: The buyer and seller agree to the terms of the transaction. The buyer pays Escrowtime.net, which verifies the payment. Escrowtime.net notifies the seller to ship its merchandise and then verifies that the buyer receives the shipment. The buyer accepts the goods. Escrowtime.net then pays the seller and the transaction is complete.
- b) Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos represent on the Escrowtime.net website that their process protects both the buyer and the seller from fraud.
- c) Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos have represented themselves to be licensed escrow agents by advertising that the company holds

1	Department of Corporations escrow agents' license number 963-2030. In fact, the Department of
2	Corporations issued escrow license number 963-2030 to Escrow Time, Inc., in Los Angeles,
3	California, on October 15, 2003. Escrowtime.net is not a website of Escrow Time, Inc.
4	d) Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos have
5	represented that Escrowtime.net is affiliated with Internet Escrow Services (IES). In fact, IES is an
6	affiliate of Escrow.com and Escrowtime.net is not affiliated with either IES or Escrow.com.
7	
8	2. Neither Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager nor Scott Amos has been
9	issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to conduct business as an escrow agent, as
10	required by California Financial Code section 17200.
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12	3. Neither Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager nor Scott Amos is exempt
13	from the licensing requirements of Section 17200.
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15	4. Neither Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager nor Scott Amos has been
16	issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to use words indicating that they are in the
17	escrow business, as required by California Financial Code section 17403.
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19	5. Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos have disseminated or
20	caused to be disseminated false, misleading and/or deceptive statements or representations which
21	refer to Escrowtime.net's affiliation with IES, when, in fact, Escrowtime.net is not affiliated with IES
22	or Escrow.com.
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24	Based upon the foregoing findings, the California Corporations Commissioner is of the opinion that
25	Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos, and their officers, directors,
26	partners, agents, employees and/or servants are in violation of California Financial Code sections
27	17200, 17210.2(a) and 17403(a). Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17416,
28	Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos are hereby ordered to desist and

1	refrain from engaging in the business of receiving escrows for deposit or delivery without first
2	obtaining a license from the Commissioner. Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17403(b),
3	Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos are further ordered to
4	immediately desist and refrain from issuing, circulating, or publishing any advertisement by means of
5	any communication, including any website, or making use of or circulating any letterheads, billheads,
6	blank notes, blank receipts, blank escrow instructions, certificates, circulars, or any written or printed
7	paper containing any fictitious or corporate name or other words indicating that they are in the
8	escrow business. Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17210.2(c), Escrowtime.net, Robert
9	A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos are further ordered to immediately desist and refrain
10	from disseminating, or causing or permitting to be disseminated, in any manner whatsoever, any
11	statement or representation which is false, misleading, or deceptive, or which omits to state material
12	information, or which refers to the supervision of that agent by the State of California or any
13	department or official thereof. Escrowtime.net, Robert A. Smith, General Manager and Scott Amos
14	are further ordered to immediately desist and refrain from disseminating or causing or permitting to
15	be disseminated, in any manner whatsoever, any statement or representation that Escrowtime.net is in
16	any manner associated with IES.
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18	This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of investors and consistent with the
19	purposes, policies and provisions of the California Escrow Law. This order shall remain in full force
20	and effect until further order of the California Corporations Commissioner.
21	Data da
22	Dated: April 19, 2005 Sacramento, California
23	WAYNE STRUMPFER
24	Acting California Corporations Commissioner
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26	By: ALAN WEINGER
27	Acting Deputy Commissioner
28	Enforcement Division