# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

S-02-354-03-TO01

Case No. S-02-345

SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING

Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of the State

of Washington by:

STEVEN B. YOUNG; YOUNG FINANCIAL SERVICES; GOLD & SILVER EXCHANGE; their employees and agents

Respondents.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

Steven B. Young Young Financial Services

Gold & Silver Exchange

#### STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington has reason to believe that Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services, and Gold & Silver Exchange have each violated the Securities Act of Washington and that their violations justify the entry of an order of the Securities Administrator under RCW 21.20.390 against each of them to cease and desist from such violations. The Securities Administrator finds that delay in ordering the Respondents to cease and desist from such violations would be hazardous to the investors and to the public and that a Summary Order to Cease and Desist should be entered immediately. The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

#### TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT

#### I. Respondents

- 1. Steven B. Young ("Young") is a former insurance salesperson and resident of Port Angeles, Washington. Young was licensed to sell insurance products in the state of Washington, from 1988 to 2002.
- 2. Young has been doing business as Young Financial Services in Port Angeles, Washington since at least 1989.

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3. Young has been dong business as Gold & Silver Exchange in Port Angeles, Washington since at least 1995.

#### II. Prior Administrative Action and Bankruptcies

- 4. In November 1998, the State of Washington Department of Financial Institutions, Securities Division served Young and Young Financial Services with a Summary Order to Cease and Desist for violations of the registration, licensing and antifraud provisions of the Securities Act of Washington. In December 1998, the Securities Division served a Final Order to Cease and Desist against Young for those violations. The Findings of Fact in the Final Order to Cease and Desist state that Young offered a security by offering an investor a guaranteed rate of return of 14% per year so long as the investor purchased silver coins through Young and held those silver coins for 36 months. The Conclusions of Law in that Final Order to Cease and Desist state that the security was not registered with the Securities Division which was in violation of RCW 21.20.140; that Young was not licensed to sell securities in the state of Washington which was in violation of RCW 21.20.040; and that the sale was in violation of RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud provisions, because Young failed to disclose the risks associated with the investment and the basis of the guarantee.
- 5. Young has filed for bankruptcy four times in the last thirteen years. Young filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in 2000 and Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 1987, 1993 and 1995.

#### III. Offers and Sales of Investments

- 6. Young, through Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange, solicited and received more than \$225,000 in checks and precious metals for investment purposes from three Washington residents from July 1998 through June 2001. These investments include the purchase of precious metals with a guaranteed rate of return through Gold & Silver Exchange and notes and evidences of indebtedness through Young Financial Services.
- 7. One elderly investor, who originally contacted Young to purchase health and assisted living insurance, made four separate investments totaling \$195,000. After she purchased the insurance products, Young recommended to the investor that she invest in gold and silver. Young promised the investors that she would receive an 8% annual rate of return from Young if she held the investment for four years. Additionally, the investor and Young agreed that any profits above 8% would be equally split between them. Based upon this representation, from July 1998 through September

1998, she invested \$55,950 in gold and silver coins and palladium bars with Young Financial Services, which purportedly invested the money.

- 8. In 2000, the same investor had an additional \$25,000 that she was looking to invest. She contacted Young and asked him how she should invest the funds. Young told the investor that he would pay her a 12% annual rate of return if she loaned the funds to Young Financial Services for a two-year period. According to the promissory note signed by the investor and Young, the loan was to Young Financial Services and the funds were to be used to purchase precious metals for investment purposes. The agreement was that Young would give the investor \$250 per month for two years and then return the principal at the end of the two years. Young made the initial payments but then stopped all payments and never returned the principal investment.
- 9. While the same investor was still receiving payments on the promissory note, the same investor notified Young that she had a \$115,000 investment that was near maturity. Young told the investor that he would reinvest her money for her and that she would receive over \$700 per-month for 18 months and at the end of the 18 months her principal would be returned. According to the contract, on Gold & Silver Exchange letterhead, entitled "Cash Left on Deposit" and signed by Young, in the investor would receive an annual rate of return of 7.35%. After she invested, the investor asked Young why she had not received her tax forms from the IRS relating to the investment. Young said that he did not have the tax forms because he had to keep switching the investment from different companies. Young initially deposited several monthly interest payments into the investor's bank account, but soon they stopped. Even after repeated demands, at the end of the investment period the investor did not receive the return of her principal.
- 10. Another investor, who already owned gold coins, contracted with Young to allow Young to borrow the gold coins so that he could trade the coins if a good investment opportunity for the coins arose. Young promised the investor \$250 per month for one year if Young was allowed to take possession of the \$30,000 worth of gold coins for trading purposes. Young gave the investor an agreement that stated that if Young were to sell the gold coins owned by the investor during the investment period, that at the end of the period, Young would replace those coins with coins of equal value. At the end of the year, Young and the investor extended the agreement for a second year. At the end of the second year, the investor's coins were not returned.

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11. Another investor loaned Young \$5,000 worth of gold for a two-year period with the agreement that Young would make quarterly interest payments to the investor for an 8% annual rate of return. At the end of the investment period, the investor's coins were not returned.

# IV. <u>Misrepresentations and Omissions</u>

12. Young failed to disclose material information about the investment opportunities described above, including but not limited to, the risk involved in the investments, financial statements for Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange and the basis upon which Young could guarantee their investment. Additionally, Young failed to disclose to the investors material information regarding the investment opportunities, including the Summary Order and Final Order to Cease and Desist issued by the Securities Division against Young and Young Financial Services, as well as Young's bankruptcy filing is in 1993, 1995 and 2000.

## V. <u>Registration Status</u>

- 13. The offer and/or sale of investments by Young, Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange are not currently, and have not previously been, registered under the Securities Act of Washington.
- 14. Steven B. Young is not currently registered as a securities salesperson or broker-dealer in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered.
- 15. Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange are not currently registered as broker-dealers in the state of Washington and have not previously been so registered.

Based upon the foregoing Tentative Findings of Fact the following Conclusions of Law are made.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

#### I. <u>Securities</u>

16. The offer and/or sale of the investment opportunities described above constitutes the offer and/or sale of a security as defined in RCW 21.20.005 (10) and (12).

## II. Anti-Fraud Provision

17. The offer and/or sale of said securities was made in violation of RCW 21.20.010 because the Respondents made misstatements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the

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statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading. These omitted statements include, but are not limited to, Young's failure to disclose the Summary Order and Final Order's to Cease and Desist for the offer and sale of precious metals in violation of the Securities Act of Washington and Young's failure to disclose to investors that he filed for bankruptcy in 1993, 1995 and 2000. Additionally, Young Failed to disclose to investors the risk factors of the investment and provide financial statements for Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange.

# III. Registration of Securities

18. The offer and/or sale of said securities is in violation of RCW 21.20.140, the registration section of the Securities Act, because no registration for such offer and/or sale is on file with the Securities Administrator of the state of Washington.

# IV. Registration of Broker-Dealer and Salespersons

19. Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange have each violated RCW 21.20.040 by offering and/or selling said securities while not being registered as a broker-dealer or securities salesperson in the state of Washington.

## **EMERGENCY**

The Securities Administration finds that an emergency exists and that the continued violations of RCW 21.20.010, RCW 21.20.140, and RCW 21.20.040, present a threat to the investing public. Accordingly, a Summary Order to Cease and Desist from those violations is in the public interest and necessary for the protection of the investing public.

# **SUMMARY ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing, IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services, Gold & Silver Exchange, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.010, the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act.

It is further SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services, Gold & Silver Exchange, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.140, the securities registration section of the Securities Act.

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It is further SUMMARILY ORDERED that Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services, Gold & Silver Exchange, their agents, and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.040, the broker-dealer and securities salesperson registration section of the Securities Act.

# **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

This Order is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 21.20.390, and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 34.05 RCW. The Respondents, Steven B. Young, Young Financial Services and Gold & Silver Exchange may each make a written request for a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING accompanying this Order. A request for a hearing should be in writing and sent to Deborah R. Bortner, Securities Administrator, Department of Financial Institutions, P.O. Box 9033, Olympia, Washington 98507-9033 to the attention of Tyler Letey.

If a respondent does not request a hearing, the Securities Administrator intends to adopt the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as final and make the Summary Order to Cease and Desist permanent as to that Respondent.

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003

DEBORAH R. BORTNER Securities Administrator

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Approved by:

Chidal E Stevenson

Michael E. Stevenson Chief of Enforcement Tyler Letey Staff Attorney

Presented by:

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