# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act Washington by:

Imergent, Inc.; StoresOnline, Inc.; John J. Poelman; Brandon Lewis; Donald Danks; Charles Andrews; their agents and employees,

Respondents.

S-03-010-03-CO01

CONSENT ORDER AND ORDER VACATING SUMMARY ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST NUMBER S-03-010-03-TO01 AS TO IMERGENT, INC., STORESONLINE, INC. JOHN J. POELMAN, BRANDON LEWIS. DONALD DANKS AND CHARLES ANDREWS

CASE NUMBER S-03-010

### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Business Opportunity Fraud Act of Washington, RCW 19.110, the Securities Division of the Department of Financial Institutions and Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews do hereby enter into this CONSENT ORDER in settlement of the matters set forth herein. Respondents do not admit the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated below.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

#### I. Respondents

Imergent, Inc. ("Imergent") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 1. 754 E. Technology Avenue, Orem, Utah 84097. Imergent is in the business of selling Internet merchant services through its Stores Online subsidiary.

{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **Securities Division** 

PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

ORIGINAL

- 2. StoresOnline, Inc. ("StoresOnline") is Imergent's subsidiary, with its principal place of business at 754 E. Technology Avenue, Orem, Utah 84097. StoresOnline is in the business of selling Internet merchant services.
- 3. John J. Poelman ("Poelman") was the Chief Executive Officer of Imergent at all times relevant to the matters set forth herein.
- 4. Brandon Lewis ("Lewis") was the President of Imergent at all times relevant to the matters set forth herein.
- 5. Donald Danks ("Danks") was Imergent's Chairman of the Board at all times relevant to the matters set forth herein.
- 6. Charles Andrews ("Andrews") was a salesperson for Imergent and acting as an agent for Imergent, StoresOnline, Poelman, Lewis, and Danks at all times relevant to the matters set forth herein.

#### II. Contentions

- 7. A Washington resident attended a StoresOnline Seminar in February 2002. At that seminar, Imergent and StoresOnline allegedly featured a jewelry storeowner who stated that he made \$25,000 a month using Imergent and StoresOnline's Internet merchant package. Furthermore, it is alleged that Imergent and StoresOnline stated that if the Washington resident did not make his money back in 90 days, he could call StoresOnline and StoresOnline would help the Washington resident get his money back.
- 8. It is alleged that Imergent and StoresOnline represented that the Washington resident could purchase three websites and an e-commerce account for \$3,600. Imergent and StoresOnline offered to sell the Washington resident tools for \$99 to \$199 in order to increase traffic to the Washington resident's website. The package offered by Imergent and StoresOnline included an {FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT 2 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORDER

PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760 optional \$150 hosting fee. It is alleged that respondents Imergent and StoresOnline told the Washington resident that he could purchase expert website design from StoresOnline for an additional \$50 an hour.

- 9. In February 2002, Imergent and StoresOnline sold an Internet merchant services program to the Washington resident and failed to disclose material information regarding the business opportunity, including, but not limited to:
  - i. The contract failed to state "Do not sign this contract if any spaces for agreed terms are blank. Do not sign this contract unless you receive a written disclosure. You are entitled to a copy of this contract at the time you sign it."
  - ii. The contract failed to state "Do not sign this contract unless you received a written disclosure document from the seller at least forty-eight hours before signing."
  - iii. The contract failed to state "You are entitled to a copy of this contract at the time you sign it."
  - iv. The contract failed to notify the prospective purchaser that he has seven days to cancel the contract for any reason.
- 10. In February 2002, Imergent and StoresOnline sold an Internet merchant services program to the Washington resident and failed to provide a written disclosure document, including but not limited to:
  - i. Business history
  - ii. Litigation history
  - iii. Current financial statements

11. On December 16, 2002, Imergent sent an email to a second Washington resident which stated:

# FREE DINNER CONFERENCE in OLYMPIA VIP RESERVATIONS FOR TWO

Learn how to make money in the Olympia Area! Enjoy Dinner hosted by the country's leading Internet Instructors!

Click here: iregnow.com OR Call: 1-800-715-6152 ext. 2991

12. After following the link to register for the conference, the second Washington resident found the following advertisement:

"Begin to learn the little known secrets to creating wealth on the Internet in as little as 90 minutes"

"When you use our complimentary, no obligation, 90 minute conference, you'll understand how you can tap into our turnkey Internet cash flow systems"

"The conference will be presented by StoresOnline, Inc., widely recognized as the premier Internet training organization in the country today. Discover the facts!"

13. The second Washington resident attended the StoresOnline seminar in Washington. At the seminar, Andrews solicited the second Washington resident to attend another full day workshop for \$35. At the seminar, Respondents, through their agent Andrews, told the second Washington resident that they would provide him with Internet merchant services that would teach the second Washington resident how to earn money by selling products on the World Wide Web. Imergent and StoresOnline would provide "its customers the ability to (i) acquire a presence on the internet and (ii) to advertise and sell their own products or services on the Internet." This system had three parts. First, Respondents told the second Washington resident that they would show him how to build a website using their template/software. Second, Respondents promised to provide the second Washington {FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORDER Securities Division PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033

360-902-8760

resident with information about how to draw traffic to the website in order to market a product. Finally, it is alleged that Respondents promised the second Washington resident that they would teach him to market his website to other businesses that wished to sell their products on the Internet.

- 14. Respondents, through their agent Andrews solicited the second Washington resident to become a StoresOnline Active Merchant by paying a \$2,400 maintenance fee.
- 15. Andrews allegedly told the second Washington resident that Andrews did not know of an investor who had not earned their investment back in one year. Andrews told numerous stories of investors who made their money back in less than 90 days.

## III. Registration Status

16. Respondents Imergent and StoresOnline have not been and are not currently registered to sell business opportunities in the state of Washington.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The offer and/or sale of Internet merchant package, as described in the findings of fact, allegedly constitutes the offer and/or sale of a business opportunity as defined in RCW 19.110.020(1).
- 2. The offer and/or sale of said business opportunities, as described in the findings of fact, allegedly were made in violation of RCW 19.110.050, the registration provision of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act.

360-902-8760

24

25

26

The offer and/or sale of said business opportunities, as described in the findings of fact. allegedly were made in violation of RCW 19.110.110, the contract provision of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act.

- 4. The offer and/or sale of said business opportunity, as described in the findings of fact, allegedly were made in violation of RCW 19.110.120, the antifraud provision of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act.
- 5. The offer and/or sale of said business opportunity, as described in the findings of fact, allegedly were made in violation of RCW 19.110.070, the disclosure document provision of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act.

#### **CONSENT ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing and the consent of all parties to the entry of this Order, for the sole purpose of settling this matter prior to a hearing and without admitting or denying any of the tentative findings of fact or conclusions of law:

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews, their agents and employees each agree not to violate RCW 19.110.050, the registration section of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act of the State of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews, their agents and employees each agree not to violate RCW 19.110.110, the contract section of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act of the State of Washington.

{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT ORDER

State of Washington.

ORDER

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews, their agents and employees each agree not to violate RCW 19.110.120, the anti-fraud section of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act of the

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews, their agents and employees each agree not to violate RCW 19.110.070, the disclosure document section of the Business Opportunity Fraud Act of the State of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED The Securities Division hereby vacates Summary Order to Cease and Desist number S- 03-010-03-TO01 as to Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews. No part of the Summary Order or this Consent Order shall be used for any purpose by anyone hereinafter. No person or entity not a party to this Consent Order may use this Consent Order or any part of this proceeding, including any part of the vacated prior Summary Order, in any other proceeding.

Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews shall fully refund all funds received from the two specific Washington residents who purchased products or services from StoresOnline, Inc. and filed written complaints with the Securities Division prior to October 1, 2003. Respondents shall fully refund these funds within thirty (30) days of entry of this Consent Order. Respondents shall then promptly provide the Securities

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that prior to the entry of this Consent Order, Respondents, Imergent,

Division with written proof of these payments.

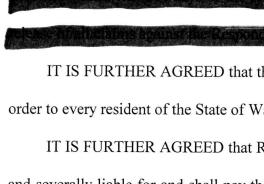
{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT

Delingation

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Securities Division PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033

360-902-8760





IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division may, at its discretion, deliver a copy of this order to every resident of the State of Washington who purchased products or services from Respondents.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Respondents, Imergent, Inc. and StoresOnline, Inc. shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall pay the Securities Division one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for its costs incurred in its investigation of this matter. Said payment must be made to the Division prior to the entry of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that should Respondents, Imergent, Inc. and StoresOnline, Inc. fail to provide the required refunds and proof of payment of such refunds as required by the terms of this Consent Order, the Securities Division reserves the right to reinstate Summary Order to Cease and Desist number S-03-010-03-T001.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing Respondents, Imergent, Inc., StoresOnline, Inc., John J. Poelman, Brandon Lewis, Donald Danks, and Charles Andrews, each waive their rights to a hearing in this matter and judicial review of this order.

21

22

23

24

25

26

SIGNED this 15 day of Jecember,

Signed by:

Imergent, Inc.

{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT ORDER

By Brandon Lewis, Chief Executive Officer President, Coo
Signed by:
StoresOnline, Inc.
Brandon Lewis, Chief Executive Officer President, Coo
Signed by:  John J. Poelman, individually
Cionad han
Brandon Lewis, individually
Signed by:
Donald Danks, individually
Signed by:
Charles Andrews, individually {FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT 9

ORDER

MI OTO 1 2 Chief Executive Officer 3 Signed by: 4 5 StoresOnline, Inc. δ 7 Brancon Lowis, 8 -Chief Executive Officer 3 10 Signed by: 11 \_2 John J. Poelman, individually 13 14 Signed by: 15 16 randon Lewis, individually 17 Signed by: 16 19 20 Donald Danks, individually 21 Signed by 22 23 24 Charles Andrews, individually (FLOSS\$376.BKB;2/62005,03±001/) CONSENT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 25 ORDER Securities Division PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 26 360-942-8760

27

RINTA 1 2 Chief Executive Officer 3 Signed by: 4 5 StoresOnline, Inc. б 7 'n Brandon Lowis, 8 Chief Executive Officer 9 10 . Signed by: 11 12 John J. Poelmon, individually 13 14 Signed by: 15 16 Brandon Lowis, Individually 17 18 Signed by: 19 20 Donald Danks, individually 21 22 23 24 Charles Andrews, individually (FLDS98376.BKB:2/62005.039001/) CONSBNT 9 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS 25 ORDER Securities Division PO Bux 9633 Olympiz, W.A. 96507-9033 360-962-27c0 26 27

2

3

4

5

б

7

8

9

10

11

12

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

27

Signed by:

By Biphdon Lewis, Chief Executive Officer President, COO
Signed by:
StoresOnline, Inc.  By John Lewis, Brandon Lewis, Chief Executive Officer President, COU
Signed by:  John J. Poelman, individually
Signed by:  Brandon Lewis, individually
Signed by:  Donald Danks, individually

1 2 3	By Brandon Lewis, Chief Executive Officer President, COO
4	Signed by:
5	StoresOnline, Inc.
6	
7	By
8	Brancion Lewis,
9	Chief Executive Officer - Passibul, Cou
10	Signed by:
11	) 1 V 1
12	Johns. Poelman, individually
13	, multidially
14	Signed by:
15	6511.
16	Brandon Lewis, individually

Donald Danks, individually

Signed by:

Signed by

1

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

?4

?5 :6 .7

Charles Andrews, individually (FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/)CONSENT ORDER

SIGNED and ENTERED this

day of

Deborah R. Bortner Securities Administrator

Approved by:

Presented by:

{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Securities Division

PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

Michael E. Stevenson
Chief of Enforcement

Susan H. Anderson Financial Legal Examiner

{FLD558376.BKB;2/62005.035001/}CONSENT ORDER