

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
SECRETARY OF STATE
SECURITIES DEPARTMENT**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Howard Richmond

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File Number: 0900524

TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROHIBITION

TO RESPONDENTS: Howard Richmond
 4054 Fox Valley Center Drive
 Aurora, Illinois 60504

On information and belief, I, Jesse White, Secretary of State for the State of Illinois, through my designated representative, who has been fully advised in the premises by the staff of the Securities Department, Office of the Secretary of State, herein find:

I. FRAUD

1. Respondent Howard Richmond ("Richmond") is a natural person with the last known business address of 4054 Fox Valley Center Drive, Aurora, Illinois.
2. Beginning in 2006, Respondent directly sold and offered to sell securities in the form of investment contracts and notes to the general public, including residents of the State of Illinois ("Investors").
3. Respondent sold notes and investment contracts to over thirty five (35) unaccredited and unsophisticated investors in the State of Illinois, including senior citizens.
4. Respondent touted the investment as a short term investment, stating that the investment was supported by Dr. Creflo A. Dollar and the Creflo Dollar Ministerial Association, a televangelist organization known for its prosperity theology.
5. Respondent represented to investors that he needed the funds for a short period of time and demonstrated his ability to re-pay the investors by showing them bank statements in his name that contained funds of over Fifty Million Dollars.
6. Respondent represented to investors that they would receive a return on their money; the amount of interest promised spanned an improbable range of return from 25% to over a 1000% of the original investment.

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7. Respondent induced the investors to give him cash, use their personal credit cards and savings accounts, including retirement accounts totaling over \$500,000.00 dollars
8. Respondent was aware that multiple investors were enduring financial hardships as a result of investment, including filing for bankruptcy.
9. Respondent used his role as Reverend to approach congregants and other investors asking for them to trust him to multiply their return on this investment.
10. To date, Illinois investors have not received any return on their investments and the respondent has failed to have their investment returned or any accounting of investment.
11. The activities described above constitute the offer and sale of a investment contract and note, and therefore a security as those terms are defined in Sections 2.1, 2.5, and 2.5a of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5/1 *et. seq.*] (the "Act").
12. Section 12.G of the Act states that it shall be a violation of the provisions of this Act for any person to, "obtain money or property through the sale of securities by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading." 815 ILCS 5/12.G.
13. By virtue of this foregoing conduct, Respondents violated Sections 12.G of the Act.

II. FAILURE TO REGISTER SECURITIES

- 1-11. Paragraphs 1-11 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference.
12. The activities described above constitute the offer and sale of a Stock and therefore a security as those terms are defined in Sections 2.1, 2.5, and 2.5a of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5/1 *et. seq.*] (the "Act").
13. Section 5 of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that all securities except those exempt under Section 3 or those offered or sold in transactions exempt under Section 4 "shall be registered either by coordination or by qualification prior . . . to their offer or sale" in the State of Illinois.
14. Respondents failed to file with the Secretary of State an application for registration of the securities described above as required by the Act and, as a result, the security was not registered pursuant to Section 5 of the Act prior to its offer in the State of Illinois.

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15. Section 12.A of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that it shall be a violation for any person “to offer or sell any security except in accordance with the provisions of the Act.”
16. Section 12.D of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that it shall be a violation for any person “to fail to file with the Secretary of State any application, report or document required to be filed under the provisions of the Act or any rule or regulation made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Act.”
17. By virtue of the foregoing, Respondent violated Sections 12.A and 12.D of the Act.

Count III

UNREGISTERED DEALER/SALESPERSON

- 1-11. Paragraphs 1-11 are re-alleged and incorporated by reference.
12. Through the conduct described in paragraphs three (3) through eight (8), the respondent acted as a dealer and/or salesperson for the sale of Stock, Notes and investment contracts to investors.
13. That 12.C of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that it shall be a violation of the Act for any person to act as a dealer, salesperson unless registered such, where such registration is required under this Act.
14. That at all relevant times, the respondents were not registered as a dealer and/or salesperson under the Act.
15. That by acting as a salesperson and/or dealer and an investment advisor and/ or investment advisor in the State of Illinois, without being registered as such, respondent violated section 12.C of the Act.
16. The aforementioned findings are based upon credible evidence.
17. Section 11.F(2) of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that the Secretary of State may temporarily prohibit the offer or sale of securities by any person, without notice and prior hearing, if the Secretary of State shall deem it necessary to prevent an imminent violation of the Act or to prevent losses to investors that will occur as a result of prior violations of the Act.
18. The entry of this **Temporary Order of Prohibition** prohibiting Respondents, or their agents, affiliates, successors and employees, from offering or selling securities in the State of Illinois is in the public interest and for the protection of the investing public and is consistent with the purposes intended by the provisions of the Act.

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NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT: pursuant to the authority granted by Section 11.F of the Act, Respondent Howard Richmond is **Temporarily Prohibited** from offering or selling securities in or from this State until the further Order of the Secretary of State.

NOTICE is hereby given that Respondent may request a hearing on this matter by transmitting such request in writing to the Director, Illinois Securities Department, 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, Illinois 60602. Such request must be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of entry of the **Temporary Order of Prohibition**. Upon receipt of a request for hearing, a hearing will be scheduled as soon as reasonably practicable. A request for hearing will not stop the effectiveness of this Temporary Order of Prohibition and will extend the effectiveness of this Temporary Order of Prohibition for ninety (90) days from the date the hearing request is received by the Department.

FAILURE BY ANY RESPONDENT TO REQUEST A HEARING WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF THIS TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROHIBITION SHALL CONSTITUTE AN ADMISSION OF ANY FACTS ALLEGED HEREIN AND SHALL CONSTITUTE SUFFICIENT BASIS TO MAKE THIS TEMPORARY ORDER OF PROHIBITION FINAL.

Dated: This 19th day of May 2010.


JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

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