

STATE OF COLORADO



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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INVESTMENT ADVISER'S LICENSE REVOKED BY COLORADO SECURITIES COMMISSIONER

Denver, Colorado -- Colorado Securities Commissioner Fred J. Joseph announced today that the Colorado investment adviser licenses of **Secured Financial Companies, Inc.**, doing business as **Secure Financial Group**, and its owner, **Brian J. Peterson**, have been revoked. These sanctions were imposed as a result of an action initiated by the Division of Securities' staff. In a stipulated settlement, the firm and Peterson agreed to the revocation, effectively ending their privilege to do business in Colorado as investment advisers.

The Commissioner's order, issued on September 4th, resolved a licensing enforcement action originally set to go to hearing on September 10th. The hearing was to be held on charges that Secured Financial and Peterson violated an earlier consent order issued by the Securities Commissioner against them in 2006 resolving charges of receiving illegal referral fees in another case involving Alan Bird and XL Capital Partners, Inc. The staff also alleged in the licensing action that Peterson engaged in self-dealing by loaning funds from his hedge funds to a business in which Peterson holds an ownership interest. In entering the stipulation, Secured Financial and Peterson neither admitted nor denied any of the allegations were true.

Still pending against Secured Financial and Peterson is a Denver District Court action filed by the Commissioner alleging that they have violated the anti-fraud provisions of the Colorado Securities Act in connection with the operation of two hedge funds by Mr. Peterson. On August 23, 2007, a Denver District Court Judge entered an Order appointing a Receiver over two hedge funds operated by Secured Financial and Peterson. See Press Release dated August 24, 2007 at:

http://www.dora.state.co.us/securities/pdf_forms/pressreleases/brianpetersonpress.pdf

The revocation of the investment adviser licenses does not resolve the District Court claims.

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