

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF determining  
Whether there has been a violation of the  
Securities Act of Washington by:  
  
Ronald L. Copple,  
  
Respondent.

SDO – 40-00

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE  
OF INTENTION TO REVOKE SECURITIES  
SALESPERSON REGISTRATION

Case No. 99-11-366

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: RONALD L. COPPLE  
32708 57<sup>TH</sup> AVE S  
AUBURN, WA 98001-3845

**STATEMENT OF CHARGES**

Please take notice that the Securities Administrator of the State of Washington has reason to believe that Respondent, Ronald L. Copple, has engaged in dishonest and unethical practices in the securities business while employed as a registered securities salesperson for Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc., and that those practices justify the suspension and/or revocation of Respondent's securities salesperson registration pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g). The Securities Administrator finds as follows:

**TENTATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT**

**RESPONDENT**

1. Ronald L. Copple ("Copple") was registered with the State of Washington as a securities salesperson for Mutual of Omaha Investor Services, Inc. ("MOIS") until October 11, 1999. MOIS is a broker/dealer of securities and has its principal place of business at Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175-1020.

2. Copple's office of employment with MOIS was 7525 SE 24<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 310, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND TRATION AND  
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVOKE  
SECURITIES SALESPERSON REGISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
Securities Division  
PO Box 9033  
Olympia, WA 98507-9033  
360-902-8760

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## NATURE OF COPPLE'S CONDUCT

3. In the early 1970's Copple began advising a Washington resident (the "Investor") regarding investments, and insurance matters. During the twenty years that followed Copple advised the Investor on an extensive basis, including estate planning and personal matters such as the funeral of the Investor's first wife.

4. On or about March 4, 1999, Copple met with the Investor, at the Investor's home, to discuss reinvestment of \$300,000. Copple suggested that the Investor place \$275,000 in a Pioneer mutual fund, instructing the Investor to make the check payable to Pioneer Services Corp.

5. Copple then suggested that the Investor place the remaining \$25,000 into a Pioneer real estate investment, which he referred to as the Real Estate Shares Account, telling the Investor that it was to have a large return based upon the sale of a development. Copple then instructed the Investor to make the check payable to Ron Copple d.b.a. Copple Insurance.

6. The Real Estate Shares Account was actually an interest in a real estate project in which Copple was personally involved and not an account sponsored by the Pioneer Group of funds.

7. On or about March 19, 1999, the MOIS supervisory system noted a \$25,000 check from the Investor and payable to Copple, prompting further investigation into the use of those funds. In response to the inquiry Copple provided a letter to MOIS, claiming it was signed by the Investor and stating that the Investor was aware of the actual use of the funds. However, the Investor did not sign this letter and did not authorize anyone else to sign such a letter on his behalf.

9. On or about April 30, 1999, Copple returned \$25,000 to the Investor under the cover of a letter that stated that he "[did] not feel the Real Estate Shares Account would be in [their] best interest at this time," since the sale of the development did not occur.

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

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4 **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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6 9. Cople, as described above, engaged in one or more dishonest or unethical practices in the securities  
7 business, as defined by WAC 460-22B-090(2), by effecting transactions not recorded on the regular books or records of  
8 MOIS and which were not authorized by MOIS prior to their sale. Such practice is grounds for the suspension or  
9 revocation of his salesperson registration pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g).

10 10. Cople, as described above, engaged in one or more dishonest or unethical practices in the securities  
11 business, as defined by WAC 460-22B-090(1) by taking personal possession of investors funds. Such practice is  
12 grounds for the suspension or revocation of his salesperson registration pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g).

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14 **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVOKE SECURITIES SALESPERSON REGISTRATION**

15 Based upon the above Tentative Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Securities Administrator  
16 intends to order that the securities salesperson registration of Respondent, Ronald L. Cople, be revoked.

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19 **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

20 This STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVOKE SECURITIES  
21 SALESPERSON REGISTRATION is entered pursuant to the provisions of RCW 21.20.110 and is subject to the  
22 provisions of RCW 21.20.120, and ch. 34.05 RCW. The respondent, Ronald L. Cople may make a written request for  
23 a hearing as set forth in the NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING  
24 accompanying this order. If Mr. Cople does not request a hearing in this matter, the Securities Administrator will,

25 STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND TRATION AND 3  
26 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVOKE  
27 SECURITIES SALESPERSON REGISTRATION

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1 based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, enter an order revoking Mr. Copple's securities  
2 salesperson registration.

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4 DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2000.

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8 DEBORAH R. BORTNER  
9 Securities Administrator

10 Presented by:

11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Kristina L. Kneip  
13 Securities Examiner

14 Approved by:

15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Michael E. Stevenson  
17 Chief of Compliance

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25 STATEMENT OF CHARGES AND TRATION AND 4  
26 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REVOKE  
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