

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

BEFORE THE

COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

SECURITIES COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of Preferred Trust )  
and Management, LTD. and )  
Mark Couper, )  
Respondents. )

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER,  
NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTY, AND  
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO  
REQUEST A HEARING

.....  
**THE SECURITIES COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO  
PREFERRED TRUST AND MANAGEMENT, LTD.; AND MARK COUPER:**

The North Dakota Securities Commissioner has a reasonable basis to believe that the Respondents have engaged in, are engaging in, or are about to engage in, acts, practices or transactions, as more fully described below, which are prohibited under Chapter 10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.). It is necessary and appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors to restrain these acts, practices, or transactions of the Respondents.

1. The Respondent, Mark Couper, as an agent of Respondent, Preferred Trust and Management, LTD., has offered for sale and/or sold investment(s) in Preferred Trust and Management, LTD. to at least 1 resident(s) of North Dakota in violation of §10-04-04 N.D.C.C. The subject investment(s) are securities as defined in §10-04-02(15) N.D.C.C.
2. The subject investment(s) have not been registered with the Securities Commissioner under N.D.C.C. §§ 10-04-07, §10-04-07.1, §10-04-08, or §10-04-08.1; are not exempt securities under N.D.C.C. §10-04-05; and have not been offered for sale or sold in exempt transactions under N.D.C.C. §10-04-06.

3. Preferred Trust and Management, LTD was not registered as a dealer, nor was the Respondent registered as an agent. As such, each transaction was made in violation of N.D.C.C. §10-04-10.

4. The program is a scheme or artifice to defraud investors, and each offer and each sale was made in violation of N.D.C.C. §10-04-15.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to N.D.C.C. §10-04-16, that the Respondent shall immediately **CEASE AND DESIST**:

1. From offering for sale or selling in North Dakota the subject investment, or any other investment interest however denominated, unless and until such investment interests have been registered with the Securities Commissioner.

2. From offering for sale or selling investments in North Dakota unless and until they have registered with the Securities Commissioner as dealers or agents.

3. From engaging in any scheme or artifice to defraud investors or engaging in any other fraudulent act, as that term is used in N.D.C.C. §10-04-15.

This order does not prohibit the offer or sale of securities through exempt securities transactions under N.D.C.C. §10-04-06, nor does it prohibit registered dealers and agents from offering or selling exempt securities under N.D.C.C. §10-04-05.

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that any willful violation of this order is a **Class B Felony** pursuant to §10-04-18(1) N.D.C.C. Pursuant to §12.1-32-01 N.D.C.C., a **Class B Felony** is punishable by a \$10,000 fine and 10 years' imprisonment.

## NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTIES

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that the above-cited violations are sufficient grounds for the imposition of civil penalties pursuant to §10-04-16(1) N.D.C.C. The Securities Commissioner does not herein assess a civil penalty, but the Commissioner expressly reserves the authority to assess civil penalties, not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, regarding the violations outlined above, any other violations subsequently discovered, or any future securities violations or violations of this order.

## NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST HEARING

**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that pursuant to N.D.C.C. §10-04-12 you may request a hearing before the Securities Commissioner if such a request is made in writing WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THIS ORDER. The respondent has the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, witness my hand and seal this 10th day of April, 2001.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Syver Vinje".

Syver Vinje, Securities Commissioner  
Office of the Securities Commissioner  
600 East Boulevard Ave.  
State Capitol – Fifth Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0510  
(701) 328-2910

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**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE  
BY MAIL**

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I, Jacqui Ferderer, being first duly sworn, state that I am a citizen of the United States over the age of twenty-one years and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled proceeding.

On, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001, I deposited in the Central Mailing Bureau of the United States Post Office Department in the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, true and correct copies of the following document:

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, NOTICE OF CIVIL PENALTY,  
AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING**

A copy of the above document was securely enclosed in an envelope with postage prepaid, sent via Certified U. S. mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to each of the following:

Mark Couper  
PO Box 5763  
Rockford, IL 61125

A copy of the above document was securely enclosed in an envelope with postage prepaid, sent via Registered mail, and addressed to each of the following:

Preferred Trust & Management, LTD  
Baldwin Hercules House  
Prospect, St. Vincent, WI

Preferred Group, LTD  
CNR of James & Bay Street, Suite K-366  
Kingstown, St. Vincent, WI

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the address given above is the last known address of the party intended to be served.

Jacqui Ferdeber  
Jacqui Ferdeber

Subscribed and sworn to before me on April 10th, 2001.

Diane B. G. Kambeitz  
Diane B. G. Kambeitz, Notary Public  
Burleigh County, North Dakota  
My commission expires 4/25/2006

