



**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**TENNESSEE SECURITIES DIVISION,** )  
 )  
 **Petitioner,** )  
 )  
 **v.** ) **TSD No.: 21-016**  
 )  
 **KATHY AMIDON,** )  
 )  
 **Respondent.** )

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**CONSENT ORDER**

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The Securities Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (“Division”), by and through undersigned counsel, and Kathy Amidon (“Respondent”) agree to the entry and execution of this Consent Order in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated (“Tenn. Code Ann.”) § 48-1-116 of the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980 (“Act”), as amended, and Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 48-1-101 to 48-1-201, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the Department (“Commissioner”).

**I. PARTIES**

1. The Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner discharges the administration of the Act pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115.
2. Kathy Amidon is a resident of Tennessee and has an address of 4659 Poplar Wood Road, Smyrna, TN 37167.

## II. GENERAL STIPULATIONS

3. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is subject to the Commissioner's acceptance and has no force and effect until such acceptance is evidenced by the entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner. Entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner shall occur when the Commissioner signs and dates this Consent Order.

4. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is in the public interest, necessary for the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

5. This Consent Order is executed by the Commissioner, the Division, and the Respondent to avoid further administrative action with respect to the findings of fact described herein. Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Commissioner, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order by the Commissioner shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Commissioner from further participation or resolution of these proceedings.

6. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude additional proceedings by the Commissioner against the Respondent for acts and/or omissions not specifically addressed in this Consent Order nor for facts and/or omissions that do not arise from the facts or transactions herein.

7. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude proceedings by state government representatives, other than the Commissioner, for acts or omissions addressed specifically in this Consent Order, violations of law under statutes, rules, or regulations of the State of Tennessee that arise out of the facts, acts, or omissions contained in this Consent Order, or acts or omissions addressed specifically herein that result from the execution of this Consent Order.

8. The Respondent waives all further procedural steps and all rights to seek judicial review of, or otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order, the stipulations and imposition of discipline contained herein, or the consideration and entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner.

### **III. FINDINGS OF FACT**

9. On or about September 15, 2017, the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs forwarded a complaint received from Betty Ayers (“Complainant”) of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to the Financial Services Investigations Unit of the Division.

10. The Complainant reported that she met the Respondent after finding the Respondent’s website, [www.braverymovie.com](http://www.braverymovie.com).

11. The Respondent was listed as a film producer and was raising funds for her films through the website.

12. The Complainant donated five hundred dollars (\$500.00) through a PayPal button on the Respondent’s website.

13. The Respondent presented the Complainant an opportunity to invest in the production of a new movie.

14. The investment contract was available for download on the movie website.

15. The investment contract promised the Complainant thirty percent (30%) of any profits made from the movie.

16. The Respondent informed the Complainant that the movie could be produced for approximately one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), and the Complainant indicated to the Respondent that she could arrange to invest fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000).

17. The Respondent gave the Complainant a copy of the contract, the Complainant

signed the contract and agreed to meet with the Respondent at a Knoxville bank to exchange the money.

18. On August 31, 2017, the Complainant and the Respondent met, and an argument ensued.

19. The Respondent released the Complainant from the contract, and no money, other than the donation through PayPal, was exchanged.

20. The Respondent was not registered as a broker-dealer or agent within this state.

21. The investment contract was not registered as a security within this state.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

22. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115(a), the responsibility for the administration of the Act is vested in the Commissioner. The Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner discharges this responsibility pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115(b).

23. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116 sets forth that the Commissioner may make, promulgate, amend, and rescind such orders as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act upon a finding that such order is in the public interest, necessary for the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

24. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-102(20)(A) states:

“Security” means any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, a life settlement investment or any fractional or pooled interest in a life insurance policy or life settlement investment, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement, collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting-trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease; or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a “security,” or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for,

receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing[.]

25. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-104 sets forth that it is unlawful to sell any security in this state unless it is registered or exempt from registration under Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-103.

26. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-106 provided that a security may be registered by qualification by submitting the required documents, including a copy of any notice, circular, advertisement, sales literature, or communication that is used in connection with the offering.

27. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-108(d) sets forth that “the commissioner may impose a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) . . . for all violations arising from a single transaction.”

28. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-109(a) sets forth that “[i]t is unlawful for any person to transact business from, in, or into this state as a broker-dealer or agent unless such person is registered as a broker-dealer or agent . . .” and under subsection (e), “[t]he commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing . . . impose a civil penalty against any person found to be in violation of this section, or any rule or order adopted or issued under this section, in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation[.]”

29. *King v. Pope*, 91 S.W.3d 314, 322 (Tenn. 2002) states, “The appropriate test for defining an ‘investment contract’ under Tennessee law is the *Hawaii Market* test . . . .” There are four (4) elements of proof required: “(1) An offeree furnishes initial value to an offeror, and (2) a portion of this initial value is subjected to the risks of the enterprise, and (3) the furnishing of the initial value is induced by the offeror’s promises or representations which give rise to a reasonable understanding that a valuable benefit of some kind, over and above the initial value, will accrue to the offeree as a result of the operation of the enterprise, and (4) the offeree does not receive the right to exercise practical and actual control over the managerial decisions of the enterprise.” *King*

*v. Pope* at 321 (quoting *State by Comm'r of Sec. v. Hawaii Mkt. Ctr., Inc.*, 485 P.2d 105, 109 (Haw. 1971)).

30. The Findings of Fact detailed above show that the Respondent was not registered as a broker-dealer or agent in this state. This constitutes a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-109.

31. The Findings of Fact show that the contract offered to the Complainant was an investment contract under Tennessee securities law.

32. The Findings of Fact show that the Respondent failed to register the investment contract as a security. This constitutes a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-106.

33. The Commissioner finds the following relief appropriate, in the public interest, and necessary for the protection of investors.

## **V. ORDER**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based on the foregoing, including the Respondent's waiver of the right to a hearing and appeal under the Act and the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-101 *et seq.*, and the Respondent's admission to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner finds that the Respondent agrees to the entry and execution of this Consent Order to settle this matter as evidenced by the Respondent's signature.

**IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116, that:

1. The Respondent shall **COMPLY** with the Act, as amended, and all rules promulgated thereunder;

2. The Respondent shall **PAY A CIVIL PENALTY** to the State of Tennessee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The payment of such civil penalty shall be made by check payable to the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Page one (1) of this Consent Order must

accompany the payment for reference. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days after the entry and execution of this Consent Order, and mailed to the attention of:

**State of Tennessee  
Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Attn: William Leslie  
Davy Crockett Tower  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

3. The Respondent's failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order, including the manner and method of payment of the civil penalty described above, shall result in further administrative disciplinary action, which may include the denial of a registration application and the assessment of additional civil penalties.

4. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order represents the complete and final resolution of and discharge of all administrative and civil claims, demands, actions, and causes of action by the Commissioner against the Respondent for violations of the Act with respect to the transaction involved in the above-referenced facts. However, excluded from and not covered by this paragraph, are any claims by the Division arising from or relating to the enforcement of the Consent Order provisions contained herein.

5. This Consent Order is in the public interest and the best interests of the Parties. It represents a settlement of the controversy between the Parties and is for settlement purposes only. By the signatures affixed below, or in two (2) or more counterparts, the Respondent affirmatively states the following: the Respondent freely agrees to the entry and execution of this Consent Order; the Respondent waives the right to a hearing on, or a review of, the matters, the Findings of Fact, and the Conclusions of Law underlying this Consent Order or the enforcement of this Consent

Order; and the Respondent encountered no threats or promises of any kind by the Commissioner, the Division, or any agent or representative thereof.

6. By signing this Consent Order, the Commissioner, the Division, and the Respondent affirmatively state their agreement to be bound by the terms of this Consent Order and aver that no promises or offers relating to the circumstances described herein, other than the terms of settlement as set forth in this Consent Order, are binding upon them.

7. This Consent Order may be executed in two (2) or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same document. The facsimile, email, or other electronically delivered signatures of the parties shall be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies shall be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

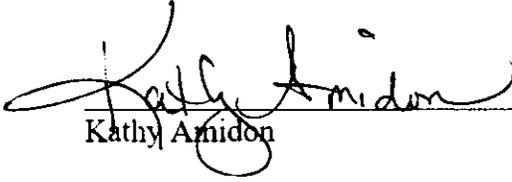
**ENTERED AND EXECUTED** June 17, 2021.

  
Carter Lawrence (Jun 17, 2021 11:43 CDT)

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Carter Lawrence, Commissioner  
Department of Commerce and Insurance

**APPROVED FOR ENTRY AND EXECUTION:**

  
Kathy Amidon

  
EB (JUL 19, 2021 19:31 CDT)

Elizabeth Bowling  
Assistant Commissioner for Securities  
Department of Commerce and Insurance



William H. Leslie. BPR #036098  
Associate General Counsel  
Department of Commerce and Insurance