Terms Completed

ORDER SUMMARY – Case Number: S-03-195

Name(s):	Statewide E	Escrow; Diane Su	e Gates; Michael Ten	npleton		
Order Number:	S-03-195-03-CO01					
Effective Date :	December 12, 2003					
License Number: Or NMLS Identifier [U/L] License Effect:	$\frac{N/A}{\text{(Revoked, suspended, stayed, application denied or withdrawn)}} \\ \text{If applicable, you must specifically note the ending dates of terms.} \\ \frac{N/A}{} \\$					
Not Apply Until:	N/A					
Not Eligible Until:	N/A					
Prohibition/Ban Until:	N/A					
Investigation Costs	\$1,500	Due	Paid ⊠ Y □ N	Date		
Fine	\$5,000	Due	Paid ⊠ Y □ N	Date		
Assessment(s)	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date		
Restitution	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date		
Judgment	\$	Due	Paid Y N	Date		
Satisfaction of Judgment l	of as:					
Comments:						

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STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING whether there has been a violation of the Escrow Agent Registration Act by:

State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton,

Respondents.

Order No.: S-03-195-03-CO01

CONSENT ORDER

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Escrow Agent Registration Act, chapter 18.44 RCW, the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of Washington, Securities Division, and Respondents State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Respondents") do hereby agree to this Consent Order in settlement of the above captioned matter. Respondents neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law stated below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I. Respondents

- STATE WIDE ESCROW LLC ("State Wide") conducts business at 720 North Argonne,
 Suite C, Spokane, Washington 99212.
- 2. **MICHAEL TEMPLETON** ("Templeton") is a fifty percent Member of State Wide Escrow LLC. In May of 2003, Templeton applied to the Department of Financial Institutions to be licensed as State Wide's designated escrow officer. The Department has not issued Templeton this license.
 - 3. **DIANE GATES** ("Gates") is a fifty percent Member of State Wide Escrow LLC.

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II. Nature of the Conduct

- 4. From at least July 2003 until the present, the Respondents have held State Wide out to the public as able to conduct escrow transactions and have accepted escrow business. During this time, the Respondents have been holding money in and disbursing money from a trust account in transactions for the purpose of effecting and closing the sale, purchase, exchange, transfer, encumbrance, and/or lease of property. The Respondents prepared and/or followed written escrow and settlement instructions.
- 5. State Wide has a rudimentary account recordkeeping system and may not be sufficiently reconciling its trust accounts to its client subledgers.

III. Unlicensed Escrow Agent

6. State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton are not and have never been licensed with the Department of Financial Institutions as escrow agents or officers.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact constitutes an escrow transaction under RCW 18.44.011.
- 2. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.021 because State Wide, Gates, and Templeton have engaged in business as, and performed functions of, an escrow agent in the State of Washington or with respect to transactions involving property in Washington without a valid license issued by the director of the Department of Financial Institutions.
- 3. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.071 because State Wide has not ensured that a licensed escrow officer has supervised all of its escrow transactions.

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4. The conduct described in the Findings of Fact is in violation of RCW 18.44.071 because there has been no designated escrow officer at State Wide responsible for handling its escrow transactions, managing its trust account, and supervising all other licensed escrow officers employed by it.

CONSENT ORDER

Based upon the foregoing:

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton each shall cease and desist from violating RCW 18.44.021 by engaging in business as, and performing functions of, an escrow agent without valid escrow licenses.

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton each shall cease and desist from violating RCW 18.44.071 by failing to ensure that licensed escrow officers supervise all escrow transactions and by failing to ensure that State Wide has a designated escrow officer responsible for handling its escrow transactions, managing its trust account, and supervising all other licensed escrow officers employed by it.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael Templeton shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall pay the Securities Division a fine in the amount of \$5,000, the entire amount of which is suspended based on future compliance with this Consent Order. In the event this Order is violated, the Securities Division will seek enforcement of the Order pursuant to RCW 18.44.490 and/or other provisions of the Escrow Agent Registration Act.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael

Templeton shall be jointly and severally liable for and shall reimburse the Securities Division

\$1,500 for its costs incurred in investigating this matter, of which \$1,000 is suspended based on

future compliance with this Consent Order. The remaining \$500 payment is to be made to the

CONSENT ORDER

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Securities Division

1	Securities Division prior to the entry of this Order. In the event this Order is violated, the				
2	Securities Division will seek enforcement of the Order pursuant to RCW 18.44.490 and/or other				
3	provisions of the Escrow Agent Registration Act.				
4	IT IS FURTHER AGREED that State Wide Escrow LLC, Diane Gates, and Michael				
5	Templeton will review the adequacy of their recordkeeping systems and obtain competent				
6	professional service to ensure compliance with RCW 18.44.400 and all other related laws and				
7	rules.				
8	IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this Consent				
9	Order.				
10	IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing, State Wide Escrow LLC,				
11	Diane Gates and Michael Templeton each waive their right to a hearing on this matter and to				
12	judicial review of this Order.				
13	SIGNED this 11th day of December, 2003.				
14	Signed by:				
15	State Wide Escrow LLC				
16					
17	By /s/ Diane Gates Diane Gates, Member By /s/ Michael Templeton Michael Templeton, Member				
18	Diane Gates, Member Whenaer Templeton, Member				
19	/s/ Diane Gates				
20	Diane Gates, individually				
21	/s/ Michael Templeton				
22	Michael Templeton, individually				
23					
24	CONSENT ORDER 4 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
25	Securities Division PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760				

THIS ORDER ENTERED THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003 BY: Order Entered by: DEBORAH R. BORTNER Securities Director Approved by: Presented by: Michael E. Stevenson Andrew Ledbetter Financial Legal Examiner Chief of Enforcement