

Alabama Securities Commission
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Alabama Securities Commission Searching for Potential Fraud Victims in South Alabama

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (December 27, 2007) As a result of an ongoing investigation concerning Ryan O. Rancher, from the Birmingham area, and his alleged illegal investment activities **the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) is attempting to locate potential victims of a possible fraud scam in south Alabama.**

ASC Director Borg said, "Recent evidence indicates Rancher approached south Alabama citizens and employees of corporations in the Mobile and Baldwin County areas and induced them to reinvest their pensions in annuities or other investment instruments. The Commission is concerned that some of the investment dollars collected by Rancher were never properly invested." **Please call the ASC if you are aware of or were previously involved in investment transactions with Ryan O. Rancher. Call 1-800-222-1253 and ask for the Enforcement Division.**

The following is background information from a previous ASC release:

On December 12, 2007, Ryan O. Rancher was arrested for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act and was released on a \$40,000 bond. On December 14, Rancher's bond was revoked and he was arrested about 4pm by the Birmingham Police Department for alleged ongoing criminal conduct in Violation of the Alabama Securities Act. He will be held with no bond until a hearing can be scheduled to determine if he is eligible for bond.

On December 12, 2007, ASC Enforcement Agents assisted the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office with the execution of arrest warrants obtained by the ASC against Rancher and his business, Rancher Financial Resources. Rancher was taken into custody, transported to the Jefferson County Jail under a \$40,000 bond and charged with one count of Acting as an Investment Advisor Without a License and Fraud Related to Providing Investment Advice, both Class C felonies under Alabama law. Additionally, Rancher was charged with one count of Theft of Property First Degree, a Class B felony under Alabama law.

A nine-month investigation by the ASC alleged that Rancher was acting in the capacity of an investment advisor, solicited significant funds from Birmingham area residents for investment purposes, and did not invest the solicited money. It is also alleged that Rancher failed to disclose to potential investors that he had been previously barred by the ASC from the securities industry in Alabama.

(NOTE: The defendant(s) is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in court).

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For more information call 1-800-222-1253 and ask for the Enforcement Division.

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