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STENEHJEM: DO NOT CALL REPEAT OFFENDER TO PAY \$25,000

BISMARCK – A telemarketer who has repeatedly violated North Dakota's do not call law will pay \$25,000 in lieu of civil penalties to resolve the latest complaint, according to Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

Community Welfare Services, Inc., a professional telemarketer located in Oakdale, Minnesota, was first accused of violating North Dakota's do not call law in 2006. That complaint was resolved with a formal settlement agreement in which Community Welfare Services agreed to comply with North Dakota law and paid \$1,000 in lieu of civil penalties.

But, in June 2007, Community Welfare Services violated the agreement by calling a consumer registered on the North Dakota do not call list. That complaint was resolved by a \$1,000 penalty. Then, in September 2007, the Attorney General received a complaint regarding yet another violation of the do not call law, this time a solicitation made for the Committee for Missing Children, Inc. of Lawrenceville, Georgia. An investigation by the Attorney General revealed a large number of violations of the do not call law could be proven in connection with the campaign. To resolve the matter, Community Welfare Services agreed to pay \$25,000 in lieu of civil penalties, attorney fees and costs, without admitting liability.

"Telemarketers need to know that North Dakota's settlements cannot be treated simply as a 'cost of doing business.' We will continue to aggressively protect the privacy rights of North Dakota consumers," said Stenehjem. "In this case, \$25,000 reflects the seriousness of the repeat violations," he continued.

A separate settlement was reached with the Committee for Missing Children, who agreed to comply with North Dakota law and pay \$1,000 in lieu of civil penalties.

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