

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Dan Orzano, 614-644-9530
Daniel.Orzano@com.state.oh.us

Butler County Resident Sentenced for Acting as an Unlicensed Investment Adviser

Harold Taylor Simpson, 71, was sentenced today by Butler County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jennifer Muench-McElfresh to three years of community control, ordered to serve 100 hours of community service and to pay \$50,000 in restitution to his victim and court costs. Simpson could face 18 months in jail if he violates any conditions as part of his sentence.

Simpson pleaded guilty in November to one count of Acting as an Unlicensed Investment Adviser, a fourth-degree felony. He was indicted in early October.

The original indictment alleged Simpson induced a New York state resident to invest with him, in part, based on false information about Simpson's experience and securities licensure. Simpson met the investor through the website www.stockmarketmentor.com and presented himself as a successful investor and a fee-paid investment adviser. Simpson does not hold any securities licensure in Ohio.

This case was prosecuted by Gloria Sigman, assistant prosecuting attorney in the Office of the Butler County Prosecutor Michael T. Gmoser.

Before investing, the Division of Securities encourages potential investors to call the division's Investor Protection Hotline at 1-877-683-7841 to ask:

- Is the brokerage firm and salesperson licensed to sell securities in Ohio?
- Have any enforcement actions been taken against them?
- Has the security been properly registered with the Division of Securities?

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