# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **SECURITIES DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Securities Act of Washington by:

Order No. S-24-3751-24-CO01

CONSENT ORDER

Timothy Van Dyken,

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Respondent.

#### INTRODUCTION

On July 16, 2024, the Securities Administrator of the Securities Division of the Department of Financial Institutions (Securities Division) issued a Statement of Charges and Notice of Intent to Enter Order to Cease and Desist, to Suspend Registration, to Impose a Fine, and to Charge Costs (Statement of Charges), S-24-3751-24-SC01 against Timothy Van Dyken, CRD No. 5918814. Pursuant to the Securities Act of Washington, RCW 21.20, the Securities Division and Timothy Van Dyken hereby enter into this Consent Order in settlement of the matters set forth in the Statement of Charges and as alleged below. Timothy Van Dyken neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated below.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

# Respondent

1. Timothy Van Dyken ("Van Dyken") currently resides in Moscow, Idaho. Van Dyken was employed as an investment adviser representative and registered representative at Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. ("Edward Jones") from May 2011 to April 2022, where his branch office was in Mount Vernon, Washington. Van Dyken is currently registered with the Securities Division as an investment adviser representative and registered representative at Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC (CRD No. 6363). Van Dyken's CRD No. is 5918814.

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#### **Nature of the Conduct**

2. Van Dyken, while employed as an investment adviser representative and registered representative at Edward Jones, engaged in the following behavior: entered a trade in a client's account without the authority to do so, entered false notes into Edward Jones' internal system, altered others' notes in the internal system, failed to submit complaints to Edward Jones' complaint investigations department, and instructed a subordinate not to forward client complaints to the complaint investigations department.

### **Annual Reviews**

- 3. On June 29, 2021 Van Dyken entered notes for client one that indicated he had conducted an annual review and summary was "no changes for [client one]... Nothing else at this time." Van Dyken had not spoken with client one since March or April of 2020. Edward Jones' policy requires that, for financial advisors to receive compensation for managing a client's account, they must complete an annual review for that client within the designated review period. If an advisor fails to complete the annual review within the designated review period, the advisor is not compensated for the account.
- 4. On August 31, 2021, Van Dyken entered notes for client two that indicated he had conducted an annual review and wrote "I conducted a review with [client two]. No changes and no concerns about her account." Van Dyken had not spoken to client two prior to entering that note.
- 5. Also on August 31, 2021, Van Dyken entered notes for client three that indicated that he had conducted an annual review and wrote "[client three] is still working on a few other endevours [sic]... No changes to his account at this time." Van Dyken had not spoken with client three in approximately one year.
- 6. On September 13, 2021, a field supervisor at Edward Jones asked Van Dyken to confirm that he had spoken to each of the clients whose Annual Reviews had been entered into Edward Jones' internal system on August 31, 2021. On September 16, 2021, Van Dyken stated that he had spoken to all of the clients

briefly. In reality, Van Dyken had not spoken to any of the clients before entering the notes and some had not heard from Van Dyken for several months.

# **Unauthorized Activity in Client Accounts**

- 7. On or around July 23, 2021, client four began the process of transferring the client's joint account at Wells Fargo to the account managed by Van Dyken at Edward Jones. On August 24, 2021, Van Dyken's Branch Office Administrator ("BOA") asked Van Dyken whether the \$125 fee associated with the account transfer should be charged to Van Dyken or to client four. Van Dyken then instructed the BOA to charge the \$125 to the client. The BOA then informed Van Dyken that client four did not have the available funds to do the charge and wrote, "before I call him have you discussed this charge with him? I want to make sure we are on the same page." On August 30, 2021, Van Dyken informed the BOA that he had sold \$125 worth of client four's fund to cover the fee without consulting the client.
- 8. On April 7, 2023, client five contacted Edward Jones to inform them of several issues she had with Van Dyken while he was her Edward Jones agent. In 2000, client five purchased an annuity for \$64,479. Sometime in 2015, when Van Dyken was the custodian of client five's annuity, Van Dyken withdrew more than the annuity contract allowed. Van Dyken's action nullified client five's rider of 7% as well as client five's guaranteed remaining benefit amount (previously valued at \$43,416.42), guaranteed benefit base (previously valued at \$64,479.14), and maximum living benefit (previously valued at \$4,513.54). Client five only learned about Van Dyken's actions after receiving a letter from the annuity company explaining the loss of the guarantees.
- 9. In the same communication, client five also alleged that, during the client's transition to "Guided Solutions," Van Dyken sold 100 shares of Microsoft stock and 10 shares of Costco stock without client five's knowledge or consent. Client five further stated that Van Dyken admitted that the shares had inadvertently been sold and would be returned. Although the shares had not been a part of client five's two

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existing individual retirement accounts ("IRA") when Van Dyken sold them, the Microsoft shares were split 80/20 between both IRAs when he returned them. The Costco shares were not returned.

10. Edward Jones indicated that, on August 1, 2023, they had settled the matter with client five for \$3,544.

## **Altering Internal Notes**

- 11. On September 8, 2021, client six contacted Van Dyken's Edward Jones branch office and spoke with the BOA. The client had called looking for answers as to why he had not yet received a statement for the account that he had deposited \$53,600 into on June 8, 2021. The client was seeking a return on the funds to fund scholarships for disadvantaged children to attend a Washington private school. The BOA then entered this note into Edward Jones' internal system, "[client six] called wanting to know why he has not received a statement for the...account. I looked and saw that the money was still sitting in cash. I told him that was why, and we don't generate statements without a change in the account. He was not happy that the cash has been sitting there since June and had thought that everything would be invested right away. Please contact [client six] about this."
- 12. On or about September 9, 2021, Van Dyken modified the BOA's note in Edward Jones' internal system so that it read "[client six] called wanting to know why he has not received a statement for the...account. I looked and saw that the money was still sitting in cash. I told him that was why, and we don't generate statements without a change in the account."
- On September 9, 2021, the following messages were exchanged between Van Dyken and the 13. BOA in reference to the above note:
  - a. Van Dyken: "talked to [client six]. Also, any comments from clients that might be negative shouldn't be in notes. Let me know first."

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- b. BOA: "I'm sorry I just re-read the note and it doesn't look like there is anything negative in it."
- c. Van Dyken: "I deleted it.....:)"

## **Edward Jones' Internal Hearing**

- 14. On October 25, 2021, Edward Jones conducted a compliance hearing to determine if Van Dyken had violated any of the firm or the industry's policies. Prior to the hearing, internal communications between the compliance analyst and individuals who were selected to be panel members for the hearing stated that there was a "high likelihood of [Van Dyken's] termination" at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 15. Edward Jones' internal notes from the compliance hearing reflected that Van Dyken admitted to all the above allegations.
- 16. At the conclusion of the compliance hearing, Edward Jones did not terminate Van Dyken. Instead, Edward Jones referred Van Dyken to heightened supervision, gave him a letter of warning, and made him ineligible for any leadership positions for two years. Edward Jones further informed Van Dyken that, to remain in compliance with Edward Jones' policies, he would need to either move back to Washington from Idaho to be near his branch location or move his branch location to his new home in Idaho.

### Van Dyken's Separation from Edward Jones

- 17. On February 2, 2022, Edward Jones' director of compliance operations contacted Van Dyken to get an update on Van Dyken's plan to get in compliance with Edward Jones' policies about working outside registered branch offices. Van Dyken indicated that he wished to remain in Idaho to be near his mother following the death of his father.
- 18. On February 3, 2022, Van Dyken indicated to the director of compliance operations that he had spoken to the necessary departments and ensured that "everything was set up properly" such that he could continue living in Idaho with his home branch remaining in Washington. The director of compliance

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operations then informed Van Dyken that he was the only person who could approve requests like that and that he had not approved Van Dyken's situation. Also on February 3, the director informed Van Dyken he had three options, "(1) move back to Washington, close to your branch by the end of April, (2) move your branch close to your new home, or (3) find an alternative solution to your situation to remain in compliance."

- 19. On March 15, 2022, Van Dyken contacted the director of compliance to say "obviously things can't happen overnight and I am going to need time to get things organized... I've been very open an (sic) honest about where I live and work and know multiple advisers including an RL that are currently doing the same thing as I'm doing but obviously they must not be using their primary home as their primary home. I just want to make sure I'm doing things honestly but also would like a little grace shown to me as this isn't an easy thing to navigate."
- 20. On March 16, 2022, the director of compliance reminded Van Dyken that they had spoken about Van Dyken initiating the process to move his branch six weeks prior to his March 15th email. The director reiterated that Van Dyken had to remedy his situation by the end of April to remain in compliance. The director also stated that any advisers living in a different state than their branch was located were doing so outside of firm policies as no such arrangements had been approved.
  - 21. On April 14, 2022, Van Dyken resigned from Edward Jones.

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

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Timothy Van Dyken violated RCW 21.20.020(c) by altering the internal notes in Edward Jones' system, by lying about completing annual reviews for his clients, and by instructing his BOA not to inform Edward Jones' of client complaints, which are dishonest or unethical practices as defined by WAC 460-24A-220. Such conduct is grounds for an order to suspend Timothy Van Dyken's investment adviser representative and registered representative registrations, pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g).

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2. Timothy Van Dyken violated RCW 21.20.020(c) by placing an order to sell a security in client four's account to pay a fee without the authority to do so, which is a dishonest or unethical practice as defined by WAC 460-24A-220(3). Such conduct is grounds for an order to suspend Timothy Van Dyken's investment adviser representative and registered representative registrations, pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g).

3. Timothy Van Dyken violated WAC 460-24A-200(r) by altering the internal notes in Edward Jones' system and entering false statements about meeting with several clients on an annual basis. Such conduct is grounds for an order to suspend Timothy Van Dyken's investment adviser representative and registered representative registrations, pursuant to RCW 21.20.110(1)(g).

Based upon the foregoing and finding it in the public interest:

#### CONSENT ORDER

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent Timothy Van Dyken, and their agents and employees, shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 21.20.020 and WAC 460-24A-200.

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that the Securities Administrator suspends the investment adviser representative and registered representative registrations of Timothy Van Dyken for a period of 14 days from the entry of this order.

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent Timothy Van Dyken shall be liable for and pay a fine in the amount of \$10,000.

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent Timothy Van Dyken shall be liable for and pay costs in the amount of \$4,875.

IT IS AGREED that Respondent Timothy Van Dyken enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and with a full understanding of its terms and significance.

IT IS AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this order.

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IT IS AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing, the Respondent waives their right to a hearing and to judicial review of this matter pursuant to Chapter 34.05 RCW.
WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.
Signed this day of September 2024.
Signed by:
/s/ Timothy Van Dyken Timothy Van Dyken, Individually
SIGNED and ENTERED this <u>8</u> day of October 2024.
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Approved by: Presented by:
CONSENT ORDER DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

/s/	<u>/s/</u>
Brian Guerard	Kassidy Smith
Chief of Enforcement	Financial Legal Examiner
Reviewed by:	
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<u>/S/</u> Helly Meals Ventales	
<u>/s/</u> Holly Mack-Kretzler Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor	