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MEDIA ALERT

Consumer Protection cites St. George Company for Deceptive Practices

"Utah Company offered E-Bay CD for free, buried pricey sales terms on website"

(For immediate release)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, announced today that the Division of Consumer Protection has issued an Administrative Citation against SmartNet Development, LLC, and its Internet Company, Fast Auction Profit for misleading consumers through deceptive sales practices which violated the *Utah Consumer Sales Practices Act*. The St. George companies face a potential fine of \$22,500 payable to the Division of Consumer Protection.

"Consumers were taken advantage of by SmartNet's free CD offer" said Francine A. Giani, "Hidden charges must be explained upfront or they are in violation of Utah law."

According to the investigation, the Division of Consumer Protection received complaints from consumers around the country who signed up a free CD from Fast Auction Products (FAP) to learn how to sell products on E-bay. The consumers paid \$1.97 for shipping and handling to receive the free CD but were not made aware that by ordering the CD they were agreeing to pay up to \$70.00 worth of services billed monthly to their credit cards. Utah investigators allege SmartNet, LLC buried these sales terms on their website under the "Terms of Contract" section and consumers were not alerted about this part of the agreement when they signed up over the company's website.

A hearing between SmartNet Development, LLC and the Division of Consumer Protection is scheduled for December 21, 2006.

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