

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

TO: PeoplePerHour.com

Webhost: Tucows Domains, Inc.  
96 Mowat Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6K, 3M1  
Canada

**DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**  
**(Violation of Financial Code sections 17200 and 17403)**

The Commissioner of Business Oversight finds that:

1. At all relevant times herein, PeoplePerHour.com (PeoplePerHour) is an entity of indeterminate origin.

2. At all relevant times herein, PeoplePerHour.com is a website hosted by Tucows Domain, Inc.

3. PeoplePerHour engages in the business of an escrow agent over the Internet at <http://PeoplePerHour.com> by offering the following terms on its website:

(a) Section 3.1 Hourlies:

(1) “On purchase of an Hourlie the Buyer’s funds will be held in the Escrow Account.

The Buyer will then need to provide their requirements (as specified in the Hourlies description page) in the WorkStream so that the Seller can get started... Once the Hourlie has been completed the Seller will raise an invoice and... the buyer is then able to leave feedback for the Seller, upon which the funds held in the Escrow Account will be automatically released to the Seller as payment.”

(b) Section 3.2 Custom Jobs:

(1) “The Seller’s payment for Custom Jobs are either agreed as fixed price, price per item or as a per hour rate job... On acceptance of a Proposal the Buyer will pay into the Escrow Account the agreed deposit amount. The Buyer must then provide their detailed requirements in the

1 WorkStream so that the Seller can get started. On acceptance of a Proposal the Buyer will pay into  
2 the Escrow Account the agreed deposit amount. The Buyer must then provide their detailed  
3 requirements in the WorkStream so that the Seller can get started.”

4 4. The Commissioner of Business Oversight has not issued a license to PeoplePerHour  
5 to conduct business as an escrow agent, as required under Financial Code section 17200.

6 5. The Commissioner of Business Oversight has not issued a license to PeoplePerHour  
7 allowing PeoplePerHour to advertise over the Internet that it is in the escrow business, as required  
8 under Financial Code section 17403.

9 Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the opinion  
10 that PeoplePerHour.com is engaged in the business of an escrow agent without obtaining a license  
11 from the Commissioner of Business Oversight, in violation of Financial Code section 17200.

12 Pursuant to Financial Code section 17416, PeoplePerHour.com is ordered to desist and  
13 refrain from engaging in the business of receiving escrows for deposit or delivery without first  
14 obtaining a license from the Commissioner of Business Oversight.

15 Further, the Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the opinion that PeoplePerHour.com  
16 advertised on its website that it is engaged in the escrow business without first obtaining an escrow  
17 agent license from the Commissioner of Business Oversight, in violation of Financial Code section  
18 17403.

19 Pursuant to Financial Code section 17403, PeoplePerHour.com is ordered to desist and  
20 refrain from issuing, circulating, or publishing, any advertisement by means of any communication,  
21 including any internet websites, or making use of or circulating any letterheads, billheads, blank  
22 notes, blank receipts, blank escrow instructions, certificates, circulars, or any written or printed  
23 paper, containing any fictitious or corporate name or other words indicating that they are in the  
24 escrow business.

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This Order is necessary, in the public interest, and consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the Escrow Law.

Dated: June 12, 2018  
Los Angeles, California

JAN LYNN OWEN  
Commissioner of Business Oversight

By \_\_\_\_\_  
MARY ANN SMITH  
Deputy Commissioner  
Enforcement Division