

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE STATE OF IDAHO

In the Matter of:

Docket No. 18-3944-21

INLAND TITLE COMPANY, INC.

Idaho Title Agency License No. 5647

ORDER ADOPTING REPORT OF EXCEPTION EXAMINATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Idaho Department of Insurance ("Department") has examined the affairs, transactions, assets, tract indexes, abstract records, and other records of INLAND TITLE COMPANY, INC. (the "Company"), in accordance with Idaho Code §§ 41-2710(7) and 41-219(1) and (5), to ascertain the Company's compliance with title 41, Idaho Code, and related rules from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2020. The Department then prepared a corresponding Report of Exception Examination ("Report") under Idaho Code § 41-227, which, by this order, is adopted as filed.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Company is a title agency licensed by the Department to transact title insurance in Idaho County, Idaho, under Title Agency License No. 5647.

- 2. The Department completed an examination of the Company under Idaho Code §§ 41-2710(7) and 41-219(1) and (5) on or about July 23, 2021. The Report sets forth the Department's findings.
- 3. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-227(4), the examiner in charge filed the verified Report with the Department on July 28, 2021, and the Department transmitted a copy of the Report to the Company on July 29, 2021. A copy of the Report is attached as Exhibit A.
- 4. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-2710(7), the Company had 28 days from service of the Report to review, comment, or request a hearing on the Report.
- 5. On or about August 3, 2021, the Department received a Waiver from the Company signed by Ericka Troberg, its president. By executing the Waiver, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B, the Company agreed the Department's Director ("Director") could immediately enter a final order adopting the Report without modification; waived its right to make a written submission or rebuttal to the Report; and waived its right to request a hearing and to seek reconsideration or appeal from the Director's final order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 6. Idaho Code § 41-227(5) provides that, after "the period allowed for the receipt of written submissions or rebuttals" expires, the Director "shall fully consider and review the report, together with any written submissions or rebuttals and relevant portions of the examiner's work papers" and shall enter an order adopting the report as filed or with modifications or corrections, rejecting the report and reopening the examination, or calling for an investigatory hearing.
- 7. Having fully considered the Report, the Director concludes that, regarding the matters examined and information provided by the Company, the Report's comments, findings, and recommendations are appropriate and are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Report is ADOPTED as filed, pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-227(5)(a).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 41-2710(7) and 41-227(8), that the adopted Report is a public record and shall not be subject to the exemptions from disclosure under chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-227(6)(a), that, within 30 days of the issuance of the adopted Report, the Company shall file with the Department's Examiner Title & Market Insurance Specialist affidavits executed by each of its directors or, if none, its principal officers, stating under oath that they have received a copy of the adopted Report and related orders.

DATED and EFFECTIVE this loth day of August, 2021.

STATE OF IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

DEAN L. CAMERON

Director

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

This is a final order of the agency. Any party may file a motion for reconsideration of this final order within 14 days of the service date of this order. The agency will dispose of the motion for reconsideration within 21 days of its receipt, or the motion will be considered denied by operation of law. *See* Idaho Code § 67-5246(4).

Any such motion for reconsideration shall be served on the Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance, addressed as follows:

Dean L. Cameron, Director Idaho Department of Insurance 700 W. State Street, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0043

Pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 67-5270 and 67-5272, any party aggrieved by this final order or orders previously issued in this case may file a petition for judicial review in the district court of the county in which:

- i. A hearing was held;
- ii. The final agency action was taken;
- iii. The party seeking review of the order resides, or operates its principal place of business in Idaho; or
- iv. The real property or personal property that was the subject of the agency action is located.

A petition for judicial review must be filed within 28 days of: (a) the service date of this final order, (b) the service of an order denying motion for reconsideration, or (c) the failure within 21 days to grant or deny a motion for reconsideration, whichever is later. *See* Idaho Code § 67-5273. The filing of a petition for judicial review does not itself stay the effectiveness or enforcement of the order under appeal. Idaho Code § 67-5274.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that, on this day of August, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing ORDER ADOPTING REPORT OF EXCEPTION EXAMINATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020, to be served upon the following by the designated means:			
Inland Title Company, Inc. 524 West Main Street Grangeville, ID 83530		☐ first class mail ☐ certified mail ☐ email	
Karl T. Klein Lead Deputy Attorney General Idaho Department of Insurance P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0043 karl.klein@doi.idaho.gov		☐ first class mail ☐ certified mail ☑ email	
	Panula 7 Pamela Murray	my	



REPORT OF EXCEPTION EXAMINATION For the Period <u>January 1, 2016</u> to <u>December 31, 2020</u>

of

INLAND TITLE COMPANY, INC. (a title agent corporation - license #5647 – Idaho County)

as of

December 31, 2020



Table of Contents

SALUTATION	3
FOREWORD	4
PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATION	5
HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION	
PRIOR EXAMINATION	5
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6
I. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT	6
A. MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS	6
B. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY	6
C. SURETY BOND	6
D. CLAIMS	6
II. ADVERTISING AND MARKETING	7
III. TITLE FILE REVIEW	7
IV. ESCROW FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTS AND FILE REVIEW	7
A. FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTS	
B. ESCROW FILE REVIEW	8
CONCLUSION	9

Boise, Idaho July 23, 2021

The Honorable Dean L. Cameron Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance 700 West State Street Boise, Idaho 83720

Sir:

Pursuant to your instructions and in conformity with Idaho Code §§ 41-219, 41-220, and 41-2713, an examination has been made of the administrative affairs, books, records, and financial condition of;

Inland Title Company, Inc. 524 W. Main St. Grangeville, Idaho 83530 License #5647 – Idaho County

Hereinafter referred to as the "Agent".

The following Report of Exception Examination is respectfully submitted.

FOREWORD

This is an exception examination report of the practices and procedures of Inland Title Company, Inc., an Idaho Title Agent licensed in Idaho County. The examination was conducted remotely from the offices of the Idaho Department of Insurance (the "Department") located at 700 West State Street, 3rd Floor in Boise, Idaho.

In performing this examination, the examiner(s) reviewed a sample of the Agent's procedures, files, and documentation. Some noncompliant practices may not have been discovered during this examination. However, failure to identify or criticize specific practices, products, or files does not constitute approval thereof by the Department.

It should be recognized that the examination comments are restricted to areas of concern and are not intended as commentary on the various favorable aspects of the Agent's operations. It should be further understood that these comments should not be regarded as reflecting on the integrity or capabilities of individuals at the Agent. As such, this report may not fully reflect the procedures and practices of the Agent.

This examination report cites Idaho Statute and administrative rules promulgated by the Department. Statute and rule citations are current unless otherwise noted.

The final examination report documents consist of the examiners' report, the Agent's response, and any administrative actions based on the findings of the Department. The goal of the examination team was to produce an examination report that reflects agreement in content with the Agent. The report indicates where agreement was or was not possible.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF EXAMINATION

The purpose of this examination is to determine compliance with applicable Idaho Statutes, and promulgated rules issued by the Department. In addition, examiners may have documented practices and procedures that did not appear to be in the best interest of Idaho insurance consumers.

The period covered by this examination is January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020. Specific areas examined include operations/management, claims, advertising and marketing, title file review and escrow fiduciary account and file review.

The authority of the Department to perform this examination includes, but is not limited to, Idaho Code § 41-2710(7), which grants authority to the Department to regular examinations of the tract indexes, abstract records, and any other records to ascertain compliance with title 41, Idaho Code, and related rules, of a title agent not more than every fifth year, unless the agent otherwise requests or the director has cause to believe the same does not comply with said title or the rules thereunder.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Inland Abstract and Trust Company, Limited was formed and registered with the Idaho Secretary of State on June 12, 1909. On August 12, 1921 the name was changed to Inland Abstract Company. They were required to and became licensed with the Department on August 16, 1973. On November 10, 1982 the name was changed to current. This entity owns the tract indexes leased to Inland Title and Escrow, LLC. They do not transact title insurance or short term escrow closing services. They conduct business out of offices in Grangeville, Idaho.

PRIOR EXAMINATION

Our examination included a review to determine if exceptions were noted and addressed in the preceding report of examination dated September 1, 2016, which covered the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015. No exceptions were noted as a result of the examination.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

The examination included a review of the Agent's operations and management. The focus of this section of the examination includes review of management and control, contracting authority, surety bond, claims, and financial interests of the title entity management and ownership.

A. MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS IDAPA 18.05.01.014 & 015

As of May 26, 2021, the Idaho Secretary of State lists Ericka Troberg as the current Registered Agent and President, and Earl Larson as Secretary. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

B. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY Idaho Code § 41-2710(2)

The Agent has an underwriting contract with First American Title Insurance Company. The underwriting contract require a high liability approval of \$1,000,000.00 with a deductible for loss of \$2,500.00. This entity owns the tract indexes leased to Inland Title and Escrow, LLC. This entity does not transact title insurance or short term escrow closing services. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

C. SURETY BOND

Idaho Code §§ 41-2710(6), 2711 IDAPA 18.05.01.021.07 & 08

The Department has on file surety bond #7901074045 in the amount of \$50,000.00 issued by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company on behalf of the Agent. We confirmed during the examination that this bond is currently active. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

D. <u>CLAIMS</u>

Idaho Code § 41-2708(1) & (2)

This entity owns the tract indexes leases to Inland Title and Escrow, LLC. This entity does not transact title insurance or short term escrow closing services. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

II. ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Idaho Code § 41-2708(3) & (4) IDAPA 18.05.01.031 & Exhibit 1

The examination included a review of the Agent's marketing and sales practices. A general ledger for each year under examination for all accounts involving contributions, donations, sales expenses, travel and meal expenses, Agent/staff function expenses, as well as samples of listing packages or property profiles were requested and received. After a cursory review of the general ledgers, samples were picked within our examination parameters. Supporting documents for the samples were requested, received, and reviewed. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

III. TITLE FILE REVIEW

Idaho Code §§ 41-2702, 2708 & 2709 IDAPA 18.05.01.012, 013 & Exhibit 1(9)

The title department is managed by Ericka Troberg and is comprised of three (3) Title Officers. This entity owns the tract indexes leased to Inland Title and Escrow, LLC. This entity does not transact title insurance or short term escrow closing services. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

IV. ESCROW FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTS AND FILE REVIEW

The escrow department is managed by Ericka Troberg and is comprised of two (2) closing Escrow Officers and one (1) Escrow Assistant.

A. <u>FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTS</u> IDAPA 18.05.01.021.04, 05 & 09

The examination included a review of the fiduciary accounts utilized during the examination period. The accounts were reviewed for correct labeling, separation from operating funds, reconciliation, and negative balances. The fiduciary accounts are balanced on a daily basis and reconciled on a monthly basis by Brooke Gibson at the corporate offices in Grangeville Idaho. Monthly reconciliations are reviewed by Ericka Troberg. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

B. ESCROW FILE REVIEW

Idaho Code § 41-2705(3) IDAPA 18.05.01.021 & 022

A sample of the escrow files were reviewed within the parameters of our examination for adequate written instructions, conformity to the written instructions, rates charged as filed, signed settlement statements, receipt and disbursement ledgers, evidence of receipts and disbursements made, file overdrafts, and business interests of the escrow officers. No exceptions were noted as a result of this portion of the examination.

CONCLUSION

I certify and attest that I have examined the Agent's tract indexes, abstract records, as well as other records, and the operation of the Agent's business and other matters relevant to the affairs of the Agent. I further certify that I have no relationship, other than in my capacity as examiner and/or regulator, with the Agent or its employees and that no conflict of interest exists that would prevent me from conducting the examination. I acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of the Agent and its employees during the examination. Based on my examination, I prepared this Examiner's Report of Exceptions (the "Report") in accordance with Idaho Code § 41-2710(7). I confirm that the findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in this Report are my own.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt LeLong

Market Examiner and Title Insurance Specialist

MANDY M. ARY COMMISSION #32608

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF IDAHO

Idaho Department of Insurance

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 28 day of

Notary Public for Idaho

Residing at:

Commission Expires:

State of Idaho DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

BRAD LITTLE Governor 700 West State Street, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0043 Phone 208-334-4250 Fax 208-334-4398 Website: https://doi.idaho.gov DEAN L. CAMERON Director

WAIVER

In the matter of the Report of Examinations as of December 31, 2020, of:

Inland Title Company, Inc. 524 W. Main Street Grangeville, Idaho 83530 License #5647 – Idaho County

By executing this Waiver, the Agent hereby acknowledges receipt of the above-described examination report, verified as of the 28th day of July, 2021, and by this Waiver hereby consents to the immediate entry of a final order by the Director of the Department of Insurance adopting said report without any modifications.

By executing this Waiver, the Company also hereby waives:

- 1. its right to examine the report for up to twenty-eight (28) days as provided in Idaho Code section 41-2710(7),
- 2. its right to make additional written submissions or rebuttals to the report prior to entry of a final order as provided in Idaho Code section 41-2710(7) and,
- 3. any right to request a hearing under Idaho Code sections 41-227(5) and (6), 41-232(2)(b), or elsewhere in the Idaho Code, and
- 4. any right to seek reconsideration and appeal from the Director's order adopting the report as provided by section 41-227(6), Idaho Code, or elsewhere in the Idaho Code.

Dated this 3 day of August, 2021

INLAND TITLE COMPANY, INC.

Name (print)

Name (signature)

Title