



Department
of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

John R. Kasich, Governor

**Jacqueline T. Williams, Director
Department of Commerce**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2017

Contact: Dan Orzano: 614-644-9530

daniel.orzano@com.state.oh.us

Arizona Man Pleads Guilty to Fraud

Following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce - Division of Securities and an indictment, Christopher Hodge of Phoenix, Arizona, pled guilty today in the Logan County Court of Common Pleas to telecommunications fraud, a felony of the third degree. Hodge faces a maximum of 36 months in prison.

The plea stems from Hodge's sale of interest in a company called Intellicore Solutions. The indictment alleged that through this business, the defendant solicited \$40,000 from an Ohio resident for an investment interest in Intellicore Solutions. Instead of using the money for investment purposes, the indictment alleged that the money was used for personal expenses.

The sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 30, 2017.

Logan County Prosecutor Eric C. Stewart is prosecuting this case.

#

About the Ohio Division of Securities

The Ohio Department of Commerce – Division of Securities (ODS) administers the Ohio Securities Act by licensing securities salespersons, dealers, investment advisers, and investment adviser representatives. The Division also registers securities offered for sale to Ohioans. Additionally, the ODS investigates alleged violations of the Ohio Securities Act and enforces its provisions through administrative actions, civil injunctive actions and criminal prosecutions.

To avoid potential financial fraud, investors are encouraged to call the Division's Investor Protection Hotline at 877-683-7841 before they invest money and 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?

###