

HAUSCHILD STEVEN D  
 Form 3  
 August 15, 2012

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL  
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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Â HAUSCHILD STEVEN D (Last) (First) (Middle)  111 NORTH WALL STREET (Street)  SPOKANE,Â WAÂ 99201 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 03/01/2012	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) Chief Credit Officer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	6,226	D	Â
Common Stock	451	I	401k Plan

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Security	Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Restricted Stock Unit	Â (1)	Â (1)	Common Stock	8,466	\$ (1)	D	Â
Restricted Stock Unit	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	4,996	\$ (2)	D	Â
Incentive Stock Option	01/31/2008	03/15/2013	Common Stock	61	\$ 2,189.22	D	Â
Incentive Stock Option	01/31/2009	02/28/2014	Common Stock	61	\$ 1,174.14	D	Â
Incentive Stock Option	01/30/2010	02/28/2015	Common Stock	61	\$ 122.1	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HAUSCHILD STEVEN D 111 NORTH WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â	Â	Â Chief Credit Officer	Â

## Signatures

/s/ Lara L. Hemingway,  
attorney-in-fact

08/15/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of common stock. 25% of the restricted stock units vest immediately upon grant (December 14, 2010), 25% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest each year over the next 3 years on the grant's anniversary date (totaling 75% over the 3 year time period), subject to the reporting person's continued employment with the Company on such date.

(2) Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of common stock. 75% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on March 13, 2014, 25% of the restricted stock units are scheduled to vest on March 13, 2015, subject to the reporting person's continued employment with the Company on such date.

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### Remarks:

This is a late Form 3 filing that should have been filed within 10 days after March 1, 2012, t

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.