

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF VARNELL BIEN AIME LICENSE NO. 0010214966 VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Varnell Bien Aime (hereinafter "Mr. Bien Aime") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

WHEREAS, the Department has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bien Aime currently holds a resident producer's license with authority for Life and Accident & Health or Sickness lines of insurance and a Medicare Supplement Long-Term Care Insurance license issued by the Department; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a) (8) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under Article 33 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of NC, for using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this State or elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Gen Stat. § 58-33-46 (5) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under this Article, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes for intentionally misrepresenting the terms of an actual or proposed insurance contract or application for insurance; and

WHEREAS, information made available to the Department indicated that Mr. Bien Aime knowingly submitted an application for life insurance with Combined Insurance Company

of America for an individual containing false information with the intent to conceal past criminal history, which information would have otherwise caused the application to be denied by the insurer, an action constituting violations of North Carolina General Statutes §§ 58-33-46(a) (5) and (8), bases for suspending, revoking or refusal to renew Mr. Bien Aime's producer's license; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license issued under Article 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for violating any insurance law of this or any other state, violating any administrative rule, subpoena, or order of the Commissioner or of another state's regulator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bien Aime has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Bien Aime; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Department initiates an administrative hearing and have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, Mr. Bien Aime and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Bien Aime shall pay a civil penalty of \$250.00 to the Department. The form of payment shall be by certified check, cashier's check or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." Mr. Bien Aime shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Department along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than October 05, 2020. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of public schools.
- This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Bien Aime or in any other complaints involving Mr. Bien Aime.
- 3. Mr. Bien Aime enters into this Agreement, on behalf of himself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Bien Aime understands he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.

- 4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Bien Aime understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that a producer's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
- 5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will <u>not</u> be held confidential by the Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to Mr. Bien Aime shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement with third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure. The Department routinely provides, upon request, a copy of the voluntary settlement agreement to all companies that have appointed the licensee.
- 6. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
- 7. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the N. C. Department of Insurance has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The N.C. Department of Insurance cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N. C. Department of Insurance

By: Varnell Bien Aime License No 0010214966	By: Angela Hatchell Deputy Commissioner
Date: 9//5/2020	Date: 9/28/20