

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

<b>RECEIVED IN AGENT SERVICES A.S. - N.C.D.O.I.</b>	
FEB 25 2025	
CHECK NO.	
CHECK AMT.	\$ 750.00
PROCESSOR JM	

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER  
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSURE OF  
JEFFERY M. BUCHER  
LICENSE NO. 8276864**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT**

**NOW COME**, Jeffery M. Bucher (hereinafter "Mr. Bucher") and the Agent Services Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Agent Services Division"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement").

**WHEREAS**, the Agent Services Division regulates and licenses insurance agents in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher currently holds a nonresident insurance producer license with authority for Accident & Health or Sickness and Life lines of insurance issued by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, License No. 8276864; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher is president, owner, and a designated responsible licensed producer for Citizen Advisory Group, Ltd., an Ohio corporation which holds a business entity insurance producer license issued by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, License No. 1000042339; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(6) authorizes the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner to suspend, revoke, place on probation, or refuse to renew any license should a licensee "be[] convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving dishonesty, a breach of trust, or moral turpitude[:]" and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(c) requires that "[i]f a licensee is convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction for a crime or offense other

than a motor vehicle infraction, the licensee shall notify the Commissioner in writing of the conviction within 10 days after the date of the conviction[;]" and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-32(k) requires that licensed insurance producers "report to the Commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another state or by another governmental agency in this State within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter[;]" and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(2) authorizes the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner to suspend, revoke, place on probation, or refuse to renew any license where the licensee "violat[es] any insurance law of this or any other state ..." and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-2-69(c) and 58-33-32(k) are North Carolina "insurance laws" applying to licensed insurance producers, including Mr. Bucher; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, 2020, Mr. Bucher entered a guilty plea to the offense of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2907.31(A)(1) and 2907.31(F), constituting a felony of the fifth degree, in *State v. Bucher*, Case No. 2020CR0506 (Ct. Common Pleas, Wood Co., Ohio) and judgment was rendered by Judge Alan R. Mayberry convicting Mr. Bucher of the same crime; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher failed to notify the Commissioner in writing of his December 8, 2020 felony conviction within 10 days after the date of conviction, as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(c), however Mr. Bucher did self-report his conviction to the Ohio Department of Insurance on March 16, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 12, 2021, Mr. Bucher was sentenced to four years community control subject to the general supervision and control of the State of Ohio Adult Probation Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher was not required to register as a sex offender as a result of the December 8, 2020 conviction; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher's four-year community control sentence is scheduled to end on or about February 12, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Insurance took administrative action against Mr. Bucher on April 5, 2022 when it entered an Order allowing



Mr. Bucher to retain his Ohio insurance agent license with certain conditions, namely requiring that Mr. Bucher submit quarterly updates confirming his continued compliance with the conditions of his community control sentence;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher failed to report to the Commissioner the April 5, 2022 administrative action taken against him by the Ohio Department of Insurance within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter, as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-32(k); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher has provided copies of all exhibits entered into evidence at the September 29, 2021 hearing before the Ohio Department of Insurance, including the September 13, 2021 Certification of Completion of Specified Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Basic Instructive Requirements, Completion of Initial Phase 1 of the A.W.A.R.E. Program, signed by Dr. Stuart W. Bassman, Director of the A.W.A.R.E. Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher has also provided a December 2, 2024 update from Dr. Bassman explaining that the A.W.A.R.E. Program is an accredited provider of services for individuals in Ohio having sexually problematic and harmful behaviors, as well as sexual abuse issues, and indicating that Mr. Bucher remains engaged in Phase II of the program at a frequency of one/two psychotherapy sessions per month; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Bassman ascribes Mr. Bucher's history of abuse endured while he was a student-athlete on the Ohio State University wrestling team as a factor related to his distorted perception of sexuality, and reports that Mr. Bucher has expressed a lifelong commitment to his recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher has provided copies of the quarterly *Notices of Compliance with Community Control Requirements* submitted to the Ohio Department of Insurance and signed by Mr. Bucher's supervising probation officer for the period from February 1, 2022 through November 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Insurance Hearing Officer concluded that Mr. Bucher was honest and forthcoming regarding the legal violation, the Mr. Bucher cooperated with the Ohio Department to resolve issues relating to his potential licensure sanction, and found that "neither the community nor the clients his insurance agency services would be at risk as a result Bucher retaining his license[;]" and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher has provided a September 10, 2021 letter from Philip J. Graham, a North Carolina resident and licensed insurance producer, attesting to Mr. Bucher's character and honesty; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Department of Insurance has determined that it is not necessary for Mr. Bucher to receive written consent from the Ohio Insurance Commissioner to engage in the business of insurance under 18 U.S.C. § 1033(e)(2) as a result of his December 8, 2020 felony conviction for violating Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2907.31(A)(1) and 2907.31(F); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70(g), Agent Services Division, as an authorized designee of the Commissioner of Insurance, has express authority to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement with any person as to the status of the person's North Carolina insurance license, or as to any civil penalty or restitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher admits that his December 8, 2020 felony conviction would otherwise justify adverse administrative action against his license under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(6); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher admits that his failure to notify the Commissioner in writing of his December 8, 2020 felony conviction within 10 days after the date of conviction would also otherwise justify adverse administrative action against his license under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-33-46(a)(2) and 58-2-69(c); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher further admits that his failure to report the April 5, 2022 administrative action taken against him by the Ohio Department of Insurance within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter would also otherwise justify adverse administrative action against his license under N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-33-46(a)(2) and 58-33-32(k); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bucher has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Agent Services Division has agreed not to pursue additional civil ramifications, including penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on the violations described above in this Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, this Agreement is civil in nature and does not preclude criminal prosecution that may result from investigations, if any, conducted by




the North Carolina Department of Insurance's Criminal Investigation Division for violation of criminal laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Agent Services Division 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. Bucher and the Agent Services Division hereby agree to the following:

1. Upon signing this Agreement, Mr. Bucher shall pay a civil penalty of seven hundred fifty dollars (**\$750.00**) to the Agent Services Division. The form of payment shall be by certified check, cashier's check, law firm trust account 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."
2. Together with the civil penalty payment, Mr. Bucher shall return a signed copy of this Agreement by hand delivery or U.S. Certified Mail, return receipt requested, addressed to "NCDOI Agent Services Division (Attention: Jeff Miller), 1204 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1204." **The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than Monday, March 3, 2025.** 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.
3. Mr. Bucher shall notify the Agent Services Division on a quarterly basis of the status of his compliance with the conditions of his Community Control Sentence in *State v. Bucher*, Case No. 2020CR0506 (Ct. Common Pleas, Wood Co., Ohio) until court termination of his probation. Consistent with the written notifications provided by Mr. Bucher to the Ohio Department of Insurance pursuant to its April 5, 2022 Order, the quarterly reports provided to the Agent Services Division should contain a signed statement by Mr. Bucher's supervising parole officer addressing Mr. Bucher's participation and compliance. Quarterly reports should be submitted by email addressed to Nadine.Scott@ncdoi.gov. The first quarterly report should be received by the Department no later than **Monday, March 3, 2025**.


4. This Agreement does not in any way limit the North Carolina Department of Insurance's or the Agent Service Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Bucher or Citizens Advisory Group, Ltd.
5. Mr. Bucher 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. Bucher has consulted with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
6. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Bucher acknowledges and understands that N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that an insurance producer license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
7. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will **not** be held confidential by the North Carolina Department of Insurance or the Agent Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the North Carolina Department of Insurance to Mr. Bucher shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. The North Carolina Department of Insurance 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 North Carolina Department of Insurance routinely provides copies of voluntary settlement agreements to all companies that have appointed the licensee.
8. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
9. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the North Carolina 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 North Carolina Department of Insurance cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

  
Jeffery M. Bucher  
N.C. License No. 8276864

Date: 02/18/2025

**AGENT SERVICES DIVISION OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

By:

  
Joe Wall  
Deputy Commissioner of the Agent Services Division

Date: 2/25/2025