

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

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSURE OF NORMAN
EDWARDS, NPN 8397219**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

NOW COMES, Norman Edwards (hereinafter "Mr. Edwards") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into this Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement"):

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards was previously licensed as a professional bondsman from on or about February 21, 2005 to June 30, 2020, and is currently licensed by the Department as a surety bail bondsman, since on or about September 12, 2002; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(5) provides the Commissioner may deny, 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 fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices in the conduct of business or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this State or any other jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7) provides that the Commissioner may deny, 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 failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of this Article or of any order, subpoena, rule or regulation of the Commissioner or person with similar regulatory authority in another jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(8) provides the Commissioner may deny, 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, when in the judgment of the Commissioner, the licensee has in the conduct of the licensee's affairs under the license, demonstrated incompetency, financial irresponsibility, or untrustworthiness; or that

the licensee is no longer in good faith carrying on the bail bond business; or that the licensee is guilty of rebating, or offering to rebate, or offering to divide the premiums received for the bond; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-140(d) provides professional bondsmen, surety bondsmen, and runners shall file with the clerk of court having jurisdiction over the principal an affidavit on a form furnished by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The affidavit shall include, but not be limited to: (1) If applicable, a statement that the bondsman has not, nor has anyone for the bondsman's use, been promised or received any collateral, security, or premium for executing this appearance bond. (2) If promised a premium, the amount of the premium promised and the due date. (3) If the bondsman has received a premium, the amount of premium received. (4) If given collateral security, the name of the person from whom it is received and the nature and amount of the collateral security listed in detail; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-165(a) provides each professional bail bondsman shall file with the Commissioner a written report in a form prescribed by the Commissioner regarding all bail bonds on which the bondsman is liable as of the first day of each month showing (i) each individual bonded, (ii) the date the bond was given, (iii) the principal sum of the bond, (iv) the court file or docket number for the principal's court obligation, (v) the fee charged for the bonding service in each instance, and (vi) the certificate seal number for each bond issued; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-175 provides no professional bondsman shall become liable on any bond or multiple of bonds for any one individual that totals more than one fourth of the value of the securities deposited with the Commissioner at that time, until final termination of liability on such bond or multiple of bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Department conducted an audit of the monthly reports from Mr. Edwards from February 2013 to December 2017 and discovered violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-71-80(a)(7), 58-71-140(d), 58-71-165(a), 58-71-175, 58-71-80(a)(5), and 58-71-80(a)(8), which provide grounds for the Commissioner to take administrative action against Mr. Edwards; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of an administrative hearing on the above mentioned violations, Mr. Edwards has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Edwards; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70, the Commissioner is authorized, in lieu of a hearing, to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement as to the status of the person's license or certificate or to any civil penalty or restitution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and agreements set out herein

and in the receipt of judicial efficiency and economy, the Department and Mr. Edwards hereby agree to the following:

1. For the reasons set forth above, Mr. Edwards shall remit a **civil penalty in the amount of \$2,000.00** to the Department. Payment of this civil penalty shall be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or money order and made payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance". Mr. Edwards shall send the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested or delivered in person, to the Department, simultaneously with the return of this Agreement, signed by Mr. Edwards. The civil penalty and the executed copy of this Agreement should be addressed as follows: Attention: Clifford Denny, Bail Bond Regulatory Division, N.C. Department of Insurance, 106 Baker Road, Archdale, NC 27263. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than **August 30, 2024**. 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 the public schools.
2. Mr. Edwards is prohibited from obtaining a professional bail bondsman license from the Department for a period of twenty (20) years and agrees not to apply for a North Carolina professional bail bondsman license until the year 2044.
3. Mr. Edward's surety license is placed on probation for a period of twenty-four (24) months, from the effective date of this Agreement, and Mr. Edwards shall comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 11 of the North Carolina Administrative Code pertaining to the surety license issued to him by the Department.
4. Mr. Edwards enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Edwards understands that he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
5. The Parties agree that this Agreement shall have the full faith and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Edwards understands that N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7) provides that a surety bail bonds license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
6. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future follow-up examinations of Mr. Edwards, or in any other cases or complaints involving Mr. Edwards.
7. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and is not confidential.

This Agreement constitutes a Regulatory Action upon execution. The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement to third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure.

8. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
9. This Agreement becomes effective when signed by Mr. Edwards and the Department.

(SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS)

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE**

**BAIL BOND
REGULATORY DIVISION**



**By: Norman Edwards
NPN 8397219**

Date: Aug-5-24



**By: Marty Sumpter
Senior Deputy Commissioner**

Date: 8/7/24