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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

JAN 16 2018

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER PROCESSOR OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF WILLIAM P. EDWARDS LICENSE NO. 0017757412

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME William P. Edwards (hereinafter "Mr. Edwards") 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 of insurance agents, brokers, limited representatives, adjusters and motor vehicle damage appraisers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards currently holds a non-resident Company/Independent Firm Adjuster license; and

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(1) provides that the Commissioner of Insurance may place on probation, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for providing materially incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards answered "No" to Question No. 4 on his original application for license dated October 29, 2015 and renewal applications dated February 15, 2016 and April 1, 2017: "Have you ever been named or involved as a party in an administrative proceeding, including FINRA sanction or arbitration proceeding regarding any professional or occupational license or registration?"; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Insurance placed Mr. Edwards on one year's probation effective October 16, 2015 because of a demonstration of lack of fitness or trustworthiness based on a complaint investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Insurance denied Mr. Edwards' application for licensure effective July 15, 2016 because he failed to make a required disclosure thereon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards surrendered his license to the Louisiana Department of Insurance effective October 11, 2016 in connection with his failure to make a required disclosure on his application for licensure and to report other states' actions taken against his license+; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards entered into a Consent Order with the Florida Department of Financial Services effective May 11, 2017 wherein he was fined in the amount of \$1500.00 for misstatements on his application regarding other states' actions taken against his license; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards admits to these violations of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a)(1) as set out herein; and

WHEREAS, 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, 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. Edwards and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Edwards 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. Edwards 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 January 9, 2018. 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.
- 2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Edwards, or in any other complaints involving Mr. Edwards.
- 3. Mr. Edwards enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Edwards 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. Edwards understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that an agent's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
- 5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will not be held confidential by the Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, any and all licenses issued by the Department to Mr. Edwards 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 copies of 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.

This the 28th day of December, 2017.

North Carolina Department of Insurance

William P. Edwards

License No. 00177757412

By: Teresa Knowles **Deputy Commissioner** 1/24/2018