

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURAN CHECK AMT

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF STEVEN R. ERVIN, JR. LICENSE NO. 0018742057 BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Steven R. Ervin, Jr. (hereinafter "Mr. Ervin") and the Agents Services Division of the N.C. Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Agents Services Division"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Ervin currently holds a resident producer's license with authority for Life, Accident & Health or Sickness, Property and Casualty lines of insurance and a resident Broker's license and a Limited Representative license with authority for Motor Clubs 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, information made available to the Agents Services Division indicated during June 2020, with respect to automobile insurance policies written in Mr. Ervin's office, policies were written with effective dates of over 30 days in the future and which were cancelled flat with no premiums collected; in addition, further information revealed that four (4) persons allegedly contended that such policies were written and bound without their consent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ervin denied applying for the four (4) policies without having the customers' consents, and explained that he sometimes had to bind policies up to 60 days in the future to meet his customers' renewal dates and/or budgets; and

WHEREAS, audit information covering a five (5) month period made available to the Agents Services Division revealed an additional thirty-three (33) policies were written and cancelled, with seven (7) policies having a future effective date of over 30 days in the future; and

WHEREAS, such activity on the part of Mr. Ervin was reflective and in violation of the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes § 58-33-46(a)(8); 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, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70 provides that whenever the Commissioner has reason to believe that any person has violated any law that would subject the license or certification of that person to suspension or revocation, 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

WHEREAS, Mr. Ervin 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 these matters against Mr. Ervin; 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. Ervin and the Department hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Ervin shall pay a civil penalty of \$1,000.00 to the Agents Services Division. 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. Ervin shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Agents Services Division along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Agents Services Division no later than September 20, 2021. 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 Agents Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Ervin or in any other complaints involving Mr. Ervin.
- 3. Mr. Ervin 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. Ervin 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. Ervin 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 Agent Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Agents Services Division to Mr. Ervin shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. The Agents Services Division 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 Agents Services Division 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 Agents Services Division has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The Agents Services Division cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N. C. Department of Insurance Agents Services Division

By: Steven R. Érvin, Jr.	By: Angela Hatchell Deputy Commissioner
License No 0018472057	Deputy Commissioner
Date: ()4/17/21	Date: 9/23/202/