RECEIVED IN AGENT SERVICES A.S. – N.C.D.O.I.

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AGENT SERVICES DIVISION RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF LESLIE M. FONTENOT LICENSE NO. 0020246808

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Leslie M. Fontenot (hereinafter "Ms. Fontenot") and the Agent Services Division of the N.C. Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Agent Services Division"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

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

WHEREAS, Ms. Fontenot currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Life and Accident & Health lines of insurance issued by the Agent Services Division; and

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46 (a) (1) 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 North Carolina for providing materially incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application; and

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46 (a) (3) 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 North Carolina for obtaining or attempting to obtain a license through misrepresentation or fraud; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fontenot on her March 03,2022 license application for a non-resident producer's license answered "No" to questions thereon regarding past criminal history and involvement in past administrative actions taken against her producer's license; and

WHEREAS, information brought to the attention of the Agent Services Division revealed that Ms. Fontenot was convicted on February 18,2004 of the charge of resisting Arrest; on December 20,2004 of the charge of Felony possession of cocaine; on February 26,2007 of the charge of Felony Possession of Cocaine and Methamphetamine; and on March 06,2008 of the charge of Prostitution; and

WHEREAS, information brought to the attention of the Agent Services Division revealed that Ms. Fontenot was involved in an administrative action with the Louisiana Department of Insurance in which she was fined in the amount of \$250.00, effective February 09,2022 for failing to include information regarding her past criminal history on her application for licensure as was required thereon; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fontenot, by failing to include her prior criminal history and involvement in a past administrative action taken against her license by the Louisiana Department of Insurance on her March 03,2022 North Carolina license application as required thereon, was in violation of the provisions of N. C. Gen. Stats. §§ 58-33-46 (a) (1) and (a) (3); 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, Ms. Fontenot has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of herself, and the Agent Services Division has agreed not to pursue additional civil ramifications, including penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Ms. Fontenot; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, Ms. Fontenot and the Agent Services Division hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Ms. Fontenot shall pay a civil penalty of \$500.00 to the Agent 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." Ms. Fontenot shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Agent Services Division along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Agent Services Division no later than September 14,2022. 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 Agent Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Ms. Fontenot or in any other complaints involving Ms. Fontenot.
- 3. Ms. Fontenot enters into this Agreement, on behalf of herself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of her right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Ms. Fontenot understands she 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. Ms. Fontenot 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 Agent Services Division to Ms. Fontenot shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken

against her. The Agent 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 Agent Services Division, upon request, will routinely provide 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 Agent Services Division has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The Agent Services Division cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N.C. Department of Insurance Agent Services Division

By: Lesue M. Fontenot
License No. 0020246808

By: Angela Hatchell
Deputy Commissioner

Date: Oct | 2022