

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 STEPHEN HENRY HIGGINBOTHAM
NPN: 584067

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Stephen Henry Higginbotham (hereinafter "Mr. Higginbotham") and 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, Mr. Higginbotham currently holds a Non-resident Producer's license with authority for the Life Insurance and Accident & Health or Sickness lines of insurance and a Medicare-Supplement Long-Term Care Insurance license issued by the Agent Services Division; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) requires producers to report to the Commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another state or by another governmental agency in this State, including enforcement actions taken against the producer by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter; and

WHEREAS, in his application for a license received by the Illinois Department of Insurance on September 02, 2025, Mr. Higginbotham answered "No" to the question thereon as to whether he was ever involved as a party in an administrative hearing regarding his license. On May 29 2025, Mr. Higginbotham's application for licensure with the New York State Department of Financial Services was denied for his providing misleading information in the application and attempting to obtain a license through misrepresentation. On October 01, 2025 the Illinois Department and Mr. Higginbotham entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order wherein Mr. Higginbotham agreed to pay a \$500.00 civil penalty to resolve the matter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higginbotham did not report the administrative action taken by the Illinois Department of Insurance to the Agent Services Division within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) and was therefore in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 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. Higginbotham 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. Higginbotham; and

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

1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Higginbotham shall pay a civil penalty of **\$250.00** 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." Mr. Higginbotham 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 **March 02, 2026**. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursements 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 Mr. Higginbotham or in any other complaints involving Mr. Higginbotham.

3. Mr. Higginbotham 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. Higginbotham 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. Higginbotham 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 not be held confidential by the Agent Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Agent Services Division to Mr. Higginbotham shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. 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 provide a copy of the voluntary settlement agreement to 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.

By: Stephen Henry Higginbotham
NPN: 584067

Date: 1-27-26

N. C. Department of Insurance
Agent Services Division

By: Joe Wall
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 2/16/2026