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

5055

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE

#250 GC

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF WILLIAM J. JONES LICENSE NO. 0020093947

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, William J. Jones (hereinafter "Mr. Jones") 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, Mr. Jones currently holds a Non-Resident producer's license with authority for Life and Accident & Health or Sickness lines of authority 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, Mr. Jones on his Individual original application for licensure dated December 09,2021 answered "No" to questions thereon regarding past criminal history; and

WHEREAS, information brought to the attention of the Agent Services Division revealed that Mr. Jones in the Criminal Circuit Court of Unicoi County, Tennessee on December 18,2009 pled guilty to the offenses of Sale of Schedule II Controlled Substance, a felony and Simple Possession of Schedule II Controlled Substance, a misdemeanor, and was placed on probation for three (3) years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones, by failing to include his prior criminal history on his original 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, Mr. Jones 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. Jones; and

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

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Jones 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. Jones 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 October 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 Mr. Jones or in any other complaints involving Mr. Jones.
- 3. Mr. Jones 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. Jones 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. Jones 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 Mr. Jones 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 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: William J. Jones _-License No. 0020093947 by: Angela Fratchen
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 9-25-22

Date: 11/8/2022