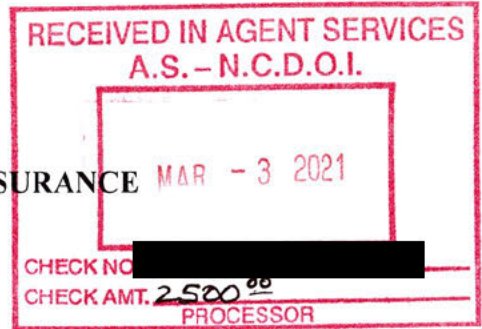


**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER  
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
THE LICENSURE OF  
THE KAPLAN GROUP, INC.  
PERMIT NO. 111979**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT**

**NOW COME, THE KAPLAN GROUP, INC.**, (hereinafter "**THE KAPLAN GROUP**") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "**Department**"), and hereby enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "**this Agreement**").

**WHEREAS**, the Department has the authority and responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina applicable to Collection Agencies and the collection agency business; and

**WHEREAS, THE KAPLAN GROUP** is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and is doing business and has been issued a permit by the Department to operate as a foreign collection agency in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-70-1 provides that no person, firm, corporation, or association shall conduct or operate a collection agency or do a collection agency business, as defined in Chapter 58 Article 70 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, until he or it shall have secured a permit therefore as provided in Article 70; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-70-10 provides that a person, firm, corporation or association desiring to renew a permit issued pursuant to G.S. 58-70-5 shall make application to the Commissioner of Insurance not less than 30 days prior to the expiration date of the then current permit; and

**WHEREAS, THE KAPLAN GROUP** failed to renew its permit to do business as a collection agency in North Carolina by June 30, 2020, and therefore was operating in North Carolina without an active permit thereafter in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-70-1 and 58-70-10; and

**WHEREAS, THE KAPLAN GROUP** has been allowed to reinstate its authority back to July 1, 2020 by the Department, and is currently authorized to act as a collection agency in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS, THE KAPLAN GROUP** has acknowledged and admitted to these violations; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-2-70(g), the Commissioner of Insurance and the Department have the express authority to negotiate "a mutually acceptable agreement with any person as to the status of the person's license or certificate or as to any civil penalty or restitution"; and

**WHEREAS,** the parties to this Agreement have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement; and

**NOW THEREFORE,** in consideration of the promises and agreements set out herein, the Department and **THE KAPLAN GROUP** hereby agree to the following;

1. Immediately upon signing this agreement, **THE KAPLAN GROUP** shall pay a civil penalty of **\$2,500.00** to the Department. The form of payment shall be 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." **THE KAPLAN GROUP** 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 **March 15, 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. **THE KAPLAN GROUP** shall comply with all provisions of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and Title 11 of the North Carolina Administrative Code that are applicable to **THE KAPLAN GROUP**.
3. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future or follow-up examination of **THE KAPLAN GROUP**, or in any cases or complaints involving **THE KAPLAN GROUP**. In the event **THE KAPLAN GROUP** or any of its present or future locations fail to comply with this Agreement or otherwise fail to comply with the laws and rules applicable to **THE KAPLAN GROUP**, the Department may take any administrative or legal action it is authorized to take.

4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner of Insurance. **THE KAPLAN GROUP** understands that N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-70-40(c)(6) provides that a collection agency's permit may be revoked if a partner or proprietor or officer of the collection agency has violated or refused to comply with an Order of the Commissioner.
5. **THE KAPLAN GROUP** enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of its right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. **THE KAPLAN GROUP** understands that it may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
6. This Voluntary Settlement Agreement, when finalized will be a public record and will not be treated as confidential. All permits issued by the Department to **THE KAPLAN GROUP** shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against the licensee following the execution of this Agreement. The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement to third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure.
7. This Agreement shall become effective when signed by **THE KAPLAN GROUP** and the Department.

**THE KAPLAN GROUP, INC.**  
**Permit # 111979**

**N.C. Department of Insurance**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dean Kaplan  
President

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Angela Hatchell  
Deputy Commissioner

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/16/21

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/4/2021