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NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURAN CE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

CHECK NO...
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PROCESSOR

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF CHRISTOPHER S. LAWS LICENSE NO. 0006909758

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

**NOW COME**, Christopher S. Laws (hereinafter "Mr. Laws") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Laws currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Life and Variable Life insurance and Variable Annuity contracts issued by the Department; 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, Mr. Laws entered into a Consent Agreement with the Florida Department of Financial Services effective October 2, 2017, wherein his producer's license was suspended for eighteen (18) months for violations of Florida insurance law related to aiding and abetting an unlicensed person in the sale and solicitation of insurance and making material misrepresentations on applications for a universal life insurance policy and an annuity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Laws did not report this administrative action taken against his insurance producer's license within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k), and therefore was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Laws admits to this violation of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k); 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, Mr. Laws has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Laws; 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. Laws and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Laws shall pay a civil penalty of \$250.00 to the Department. 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. Laws 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 <u>July 2, 2018</u>. 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 Department's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Laws or in any other complaints involving Mr. Laws.
- 3. Mr. Laws 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. Laws 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. Laws 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 Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to Mr. Laws shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. The Department 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 Department routinely provides copies of 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 N. C. Department of Insurance has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The N.C. Department of Insurance cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N. C. Department of Insurance

By: Christopher S. Laws License No. 0006909758

By: Teresa Knowles **Deputy Commissioner** 

Date: 6/26/2018

Date: 7/16/2018