

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AGENT SERVICES DIVISION 2 0 2022 RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

OF INSURANCE PROCESSOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF CARLOUS PITTS LICENSE NO. 0017565183

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

**NOW COME**. Carlous Pitts (hereinafter "Mr. Pitts") 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. Pitts currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Accident & Health or sickness insurance and a Medicare Supplement Long Term-Care insurance license 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. Pitts on his applications for a non-resident producer's license dated July 19 and 28, 2021 answered "No" to the Question: "Have you ever been named or involved as a party in an administrative proceeding, including FINRA sanction or arbitration proceeding regarding any professional or occupational license or registration?"; and

WHEREAS, information brought to the attention of the Agent Services Division revealed that Mr. Pitts was involved in an administrative proceeding with the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Insurance wherein Mr. Pitt's resident license was revoked effective October 10, 2016 for failure to notify the Division of Insurance of his business, residence or electronic mail address; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts, by not including such information on his applications for licensure in this State as requested thereon, was in violation of the provisions of N. C. Gen. Stats. §§ 58-33-46 (a) (1) and (a) (3); and

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. § 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, the California Department of Insurance, effective October 01, 2021 denied Mr. Pitts' application for licensure for not disclosing the action taken by the Nevada Department of Insurance on his application for licensure with the California Department filed on July 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts did not report the California administrative proceeding to the Agent Services Division within 30 days after the final disposition of that matter, he was in violation of the provisions of N. C. Gen. Stat. § 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, 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. Pitts 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. Pitts; and

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

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Pitts 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." Mr. Pitts 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 11, 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. Pitts or in any other complaints involving Mr. Pitts.
- 3. Mr. Pitts 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. Pitts 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. Pitts 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. Pitts 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, routinely provides 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.

Agent Services Division

By: Carlous Pitts License No. 0017565183

By: Angela Hatchell Deputy Commissioner

N.C. Department of Insurance

Date: 4/10/22 Date: 4/21/2022