

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURA CECK AMT. RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF BETSY J. PRICE LICENSE NO. 0008181099 VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Betsy J. Price (hereinafter "Ms. Price") 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 agents; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Price currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Accident & Health or Sickness insurance and a non-resident Medicare Supplement & Long-Term Care license 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, the Tennessee Department of Insurance in a Consent Order fined Ms. Price in the amount of \$250.00 effective May 24, 2021 for demonstrating a lack of fitness or trustworthiness involving alleged acts of fraud and forgery in multiple insurance policy applications in the names of individuals who did not exist and was ordered to Cease and Desist from any conduct in violation of any Tennessee Rule, Regulation or Statute; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Price failed to report the administrative action taken by the Tennessee Department of Insurance within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k), and therefore, was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Price 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, 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, Ms. Price has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of herself, and the Agent Services Division has agreed not to pursue additional civil ramifications, including penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Ms. Price; 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, Ms. Price and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Ms. Price shall pay a civil penalty of \$250.00 to the Agents 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." Ms. Price shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Agents Services Division along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than November 18, 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. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Agents Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Ms. Price or in any other complaints involving Ms. Price.
- 3. Ms. Price enters into this Agreement, on behalf of herself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of her right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Ms. Price understands she 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. Ms. Price 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 Agents Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Agents Services Division to Ms. Price shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against her. The Agents 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 Agents Services Division, upon request, routinely 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 Agents Services Division has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The Agents Services Division cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N. C. Department of Insurance Agents Services Division

By: Betsy J. Wrice	by. Angelo Hatenen
License No. 0008181099	Deputy Commissioner

Date: <u>2/2/22</u>

Date: 2/5/2022