

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF SAFERIDE AUTO CLUB, INC. PERMIT # 106588

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, SAFERIDE AUTO CLUB, INC. (hereinafter "SAFERIDE") 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 Motor Clubs and the business of motor clubs in this State; and

WHEREAS, SAFERIDE is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, and is doing business and has been issued a permit by the Department to operate as a foreign motor club in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-69-5 provides that no motor club, district or branch office, or franchise motor club shall engage in business in this State unless it holds a valid license issued to it by the Commissioner; and

WHERAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 58-69-15 provides that all licenses and all renewals thereof shall expire on June 30 following issuance or renewal; and

WHEREAS, SAFERIDE failed to timely follow the process of renewal of its license to do business as a motor in North Carolina by June 30, 2020, and therefore was operating in North Carolina without an active license thereafter in violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-69-5 and 58-69-15; and

WHEREAS, SAFERIDE will be allowed to reinstate its authority back to July 1, 2020 by the Department, and be authorized to act as a motor club in North Carolina upon execution of this Agreement and payment of the imposed penalty; and

WHEREAS, SAFERIDE 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 **SAFERIDE** hereby agree to the following;

- 1. Immediately upon signing this agreement, **SAFERIDE** shall pay a civil penalty of **\$1000.00** 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." **SAFERIDE** 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 **August 31**, **2020**. 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. **SAFERIDE** 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 **SAFERIDE**.
- 3. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future or follow-up examination of **SAFERIDE**, or in any cases or complaints involving **SAFERIDE**. In the event **SAFERIDE** 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 **SAFERIDE**, 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.
- 5. **SAFERIDE** enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of its right to have an administrative hearing on this matter.

- **SAFERIDE** 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 **SAFERIDE** 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 **SAFERIDE** and the Department.

SAFERIDE AUTO CLUB, INC. Permit # 106588

N.C. Department of Insurance

By:
Cindy Bailey
Treasurer

Angela Hatchell
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 7/30/20