

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 MICHELLE SITZLAR LICENSE NO. 0008450934

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Michelle Sitzlar (hereinafter "Ms. Sitzlar") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance Agent Services Division (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, brokers, limited representatives, adjusters and motor vehicle damage appraisers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sitzlar currently holds a Non-resident Company/Independent Firm Adjuster license issued by the Department; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46a) (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, Ms. Sitzlar answered "No" to questions on her original application for licensure dated December 24,2021 and subsequent application dated March 04,2022 regarding past criminal history and administrative actions taken against her license by other state regulators; and

WHEREAS, information obtained by the Agent Services Division indicated that Ms. Sitzlar pled *nolo contendere* and adjudication was withheld in 2008 to the charge of Obtaining Property in Return for Worthless Checks, a felony, and the misdemeanor charge of Trespassing on June 04,2021; and

WHEREAS, information obtained by the Agent Services Division indicated that Ms. Sitzlar was involved in an administrative proceeding with the Florida Department of Financial

Services with respect to failure to disclose past criminal history in which her license application was denied effective November 17,2021

WHEREAS, Ms. Sitzlar, by failing to disclose past criminal history and administrative actions on her applications for licensure, which information was requested and required thereon, was in violation of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a) (1); 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. Sitzlar 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. Sitzlar; 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. Sitzlar and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Ms. Sitzlar 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." Ms. Sitzlar 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 February 22,2023. 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 Ms. Sitzlar or in any other complaints involving Ms. Sitzlar.

- 3. Ms. Sitzlar 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. Sitzlar 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. Sitzlar 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 Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to Ms. Sitzlar shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against her. 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, upon request, routinely will provide 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 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: Michelle Sitzlar License No. 0008450934	Agent Services Division By: Angela Hatchell Deputy Commissioner
2/7/23 Date:	Date: 2/16/2023