

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURA NGEK AMT. S
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF SIERRA SMITH NPN: 18537632 VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, Sierra Smith (hereinafter "Ms. Smith") 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. Smith currently holds a Non-Resident Producer's license with authority for Accident and Health or Sickness line of insurance and a Medicare Supplement-Long Term Care insurance license issued by the Agent Services Division; 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, Ms. Smith provided incorrect and untrue information on two (2) license renewal applications with the New York State Department of Financial Services (NYSDFS) on March 07, 2019 and March 10, 2021. Ms. Smith failed to disclose that she pled guilty to a Misdemeanor, adjudication deferred, in the County Court of Polk County. Florida on or about January 15, 2019 and failed to report the action to the Superintendent within thirty (30) days of the initial prehearing date as required by New York insurance law. Ms. Smith entered into a Stipulation with the NYSDFS wherein she surrendered any and all of her licenses and agreed that such surrenders constituted a denial of her license applications and had the same effect as if her licenses had been revoked or denied after a hearing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith failed to report the administrative action taken by the New York State Department of Financial Services within 30 days after the final disposition of that matter as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) Services Division, and therefore, was in violation thereof; 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. Smith has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matter 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 this matter against Ms. Smith; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Agent Services Division 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. Smith and the Department hereby agree with the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Ms. Smith shall pay a civil penalty of \$250.00 to the Agent Services Division. 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." Ms. Smith 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 Department must receive the civil penalty and the signed Agreement no later than <u>July 22, 2025</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 Agent Services Division's disciplinary power in any future examination of Ms. Smith or in any other complaints involving Ms. Smith.
- 3. Ms. Smith 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. Smith 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. Smith 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 Agents Services Division to Ms. Smith shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against

her. 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 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 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.

N. C. Department of Insurance Agent Services Division

By: Sierra Smith NPN: 18537632	Deputy Commissioner