

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

94077 (MH)

RECEIVED IN AGENT SERVICES A.S. - N.C.D.O.I.	
SEP 23 2025	
CHECK NO. _____	_____
CHECK AMT. _____	91,000.00
PROCESSOR _____	

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE LICENSURE OF
TIMOTHY HAROLD STARNES
NPN: 17093426**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

NOW COME. Timothy Harold Starnes (hereinafter "Mr. Starnes") 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 insurance agencies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes currently holds a Resident producer's license with authority for Life and Accident & Health or Sickness lines of insurance issued by the Agent Services Division; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(7) 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 NC for having admitted or been found to have committed any insurance unfair trade practice or fraud; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(8) 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 NC for using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this State or elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes submitted four (4) applications for different individuals at the agency with whom he was employed. All contained electronic signatures and listed the policyholders as policy payers. All premiums were paid out of the same bank account belonging to Mr. Starnes' wife. The social security numbers, addresses, and phone numbers were found to be invalid. The owner of the agency submitted a statement to the effect that Mr. Starnes admitted that he submitted fraudulent business to make bonus for his team. A further investigation made at the agency found twelve (12) questionable policies which were set to "Not Taken" status and the commissions were charged to Mr. Starnes; and

WHEREAS, such actions on the part of Mr. Starnes reflected activities that are prohibited and in violation of the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 58-33-46(a)(7) and (8); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 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, Mr. Starnes 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. Starnes; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent 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, Mr. Starnes and the Agent Services Division hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Starnes shall pay a civil penalty of **\$1,000.00** 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. Starnes 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 Department no later than **September 19, 2025**. 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. Starnes or in any other complaints involving Mr. Starnes.
3. Mr. Starnes 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. Starnes 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. Starnes understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that an agent’s license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.

5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will **not** be held confidential by the Agent Services Division. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to Mr. Starnes 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, will routinely 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 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 regulator.

**N. C. Department of Insurance
Agent Services Division**


By: Timothy Harold Starnes
NPN: 17093426


By: Joe Wall
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 9-16-25

Date: 9/23/2025