

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
EVAN BRYCE VICKERS
(NPN # 19511306)

Respondent.

ORDER AND
FINAL AGENCY DECISION

Docket Number: 2261

THIS MATTER came on for hearing on December 16, 2025, following an Order of Remand from Wake County Superior Court, in the Hearing Room of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, located at 3200 Beechleaf Court, Raleigh, North Carolina before the undersigned Hearing Officer, as designated by the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-55.

Petitioner, the Bail Bond Regulatory Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance ("Petitioner" or "BBRD"), was represented by Assistant Attorney General Nicholas B. Sorensen. Respondent Evan Bryce Vickers ("Respondent") appeared and testified on his own behalf at hearing.

Petitioner's Exhibits 1 through 9 were admitted into evidence.

Clifford Michael Denny, BBRD Complaint Analyst, appeared and testified on behalf of Petitioner.

BASED UPON the careful consideration of the evidence and arguments presented at the hearing by BBRD, and based upon the entire record in this proceeding, the Hearing Officer hereby makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. BBRD is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance ("NCDOI"), which is a state agency responsible, in accordance with Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes, for enforcement of bail bonding laws and regulating and licensing bail bondsmen and runners.

2. Respondent possessed a North Carolina surety bail bondsman license ("License") which first became active on June 4, 2020.

3. On January 31, 2025, the original Notice of Administrative Hearing was issued.

4. Following the initial Notice, this matter regarding Respondent's License was first heard at an administrative hearing on February 27, 2025.

5. Following the initial administrative hearing, an Order and Final Agency Decision ("OFAD") was entered on March 6, 2025, which revoked Respondent's License.

6. On April 7, 2025, Respondent filed a Petition for Judicial Review which appealed the OFAD. Respondent cited improper service as grounds for the appeal.

7. On July 9, 2025, Respondent was granted relief from judgment and a new hearing due to improper service of the original Notice of Administrative Hearing, in an Administrative Order issued by the undersigned.

8. On October 6, 2025, in response to the July 9, 2025, Administrative Order, an Order was issued in Wake County Superior Court which remanded the petition for judicial review back to the Department for further proceedings in line with the Administrative Order.

9. On November 3, 2025, following the remand, a new Notice of Administrative Hearing was issued to the parties which scheduled the administrative hearing held on December 16, 2025.

10. Service of the Notice of Administrative Hearing providing Respondent with due notice of the hearing was deemed perfected via first class U.S. mail on November 7, 2025, by operation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(e), as shown by the attached Certificate of Service and separate Affidavit of Service admitted into evidence at the hearing. See Pet'r's Exs. 1 and 2.

11. Clifford Micheal Denny ("Mr. Denny") is a Complaint Analyst with BBRD. Among his other duties, Mr. Denny handles licensure investigations of bail bondsmen licensed by the Commissioner. Mr. Denny testified at hearing regarding an investigation involving Respondent's license and criminal convictions.

12. On September 12, 2022, in *State v. Vickers*, File No. 22-CR-701205-910, in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division, Wake County, North Carolina, Respondent was convicted of misdemeanor possession of one-half ounce or less of marijuana, a controlled substance included within Schedule VI of the North

Carolina Controlled Substances Act. See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-95(A)(3). See Pet'r's Exs. 4 and 9.

13. On September 15, 2022, Respondent e-mailed Mr. Denny notifying him that he had been convicted of misdemeanor simple possession of marijuana. Respondent attached to the e-mail a September 14, 2022, letter from his criminal defense attorney confirming the conviction and results of trial. See Pet'r's Exs. 5 and 6.

14. On October 17, 2022, in *State v. Vickers*, File No. 22-CR-204831, in the General Court of justice, District Court Division, Wake County, North Carolina, Respondent was convicted of misdemeanor aid and abet of an unlicensed bail bondsman. See Pet'r's Exs. 4 and 9.

15. On October 21, 2022, Petitioner pulled a CJ Leads report for Respondent. CJ Leads is a state database utilized by BBRD officials to track criminal convictions and activities of licensed bondsmen. Mr. Denny reviewed the report and highlighted two convictions of interest: (1) the previously reported September 12, 2022, conviction for misdemeanor possession of one-half ounce or less of marijuana, and (2) an October 17, 2022, conviction in Wake County, by guilty plea, to misdemeanor aiding and abetting an unlicensed bail bondsman. See Pet'r's Ex. 4.

16. On October 25, 2022, Respondent e-mailed Mr. Denny informing him of the October 17, 2022, conviction for misdemeanor aid and abet. See Pet'r's Ex. 7.

17. A certified criminal record search from Wake County confirmed the existence of the two previously discussed criminal convictions from September 12, 2022, and October 17, 2022. See Pet'r's Ex. 9

18. The certified records from Wake County regarding the October 17, 2022, conviction stated that Respondent unlawfully and willfully aided and abetted an unlicensed bail bondsman, Tony Banks ("Banks"), in the act of bail bonding by assisting Banks with taking into custody one Carly Morgan on March 5, 2022. Respondent and Banks used their vehicle to crash into the victim in order to force her vehicle to stop so that they could take her into custody for surrender on an outstanding bond. At this time, Respondent did know, or should have known, that Banks was unlicensed and therefore not authorized to conduct this action. See Pet'r's Ex. 9.

19. On November 1, 2022, Mr. Denny sent a Notice of Allegations Letter to Respondent. This letter stated that Petitioner may have information justifying administrative action against Respondent's license. The letter listed N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(b1) as one ground for action citing the September 12, 2022, misdemeanor marijuana possession conviction. The letter listed the multiple grounds justifying

administrative action in relation to the October 17, 2022, conviction pursuant to the subsections of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a):

“(2) a conviction of any misdemeanor committed in the course of dealings under the license issued by the Commissioner.

(14) For knowingly adding or abetting other to evade or violate the provisions of this Article.

(14b) Violation of any law governing bail bonding or insurance in this State...”

See Pet'r's Ex. 8.

20. At hearing, Mr. Denny testified as to the stages of the investigation, his obtaining of records, and as to his correspondence with Respondent. Mr. Denny opined that revocation of Respondent's license should be mandatory pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(b1), considering Respondent's misdemeanor drug possession conviction.

21. Respondent testified on his own behalf at hearing and provided additional context regarding the circumstances surrounding the October 17, 2022, misdemeanor conviction for aiding and abetting an unlicensed bondsman.

22. Respondent assumes responsibility for not having properly verified the licensure status of Mr. Banks in the events that lead to the October 17, 2022, conviction.

23. Respondent has not utilized his license since the events underlying the October 17, 2022, conviction, but he does take steps to renew and keep active his license on a yearly basis.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This matter is properly before the Commissioner, and the Commissioner has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter.

2. Respondent was properly served with the Notice of Administrative Hearing and the Scheduling Order providing him with due notice of the December 16, 2025, hearing in this matter.

3. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(b1) “the Commissioner *shall* revoke or refuse to renew any license under this Article if the licensee has been convicted on or after October 1, 2009, of a misdemeanor drug violation under Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.”

4. On September 12, 2022, Respondent was convicted of misdemeanor possession of one-half ounce or less of marijuana, a controlled substance included within Schedule VI of the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act. This crime falls under Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes. This crime occurred after October 1, 2009. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-95(A)(3). *See* Pet'r's Exs. 4 and 9.

5. Respondent had an effective license at the time of his September 12, 2022, conviction, and this conviction occurred after October 1, 2009. Therefore, as this is a misdemeanor drug violation as contemplated by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(b1), the undersigned is mandated to issue a revocation of Respondent's license.

6. The Commissioner may deny, place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a surety bail bondsman license for any one of the reasons listed under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a). These reasons include misdemeanor convictions committed in the course of duties and knowingly aiding or abetting another to evade or violate the laws governing bondsmen in this State. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(2) and (14).

7. On October 17, 2022, Respondent was convicted of misdemeanor aid and abet an unlicensed bail bondsman. Respondent committed this crime while assisting an unlicensed bondsman with taking a person into custody to surrender a bond. *See* Pet'r's Exs. 7 and 9.

8. By attempting to take another into custody to surrender an outstanding bounty, Respondent was convicted of a crime in the course of his license. By aiding and abetting an unlicensed bondsman, Respondent knowingly aided or abetted another with violating the laws governing bail bonding, i.e. the legal requirement that one must have a license in order to act as a bondsman. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-40(a).

9. Respondent was convicted of a misdemeanor crime in the course of his dealings as a bondsman while aiding and abetting an unlicensed bondsman with violating the laws governing bondsmen. Therefore, Respondent's license is subject to revocation. *See* N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(2) and (14).

10. Furthermore, Respondent was convicted of a misdemeanor drug violation after October 1, 2009, as contemplated by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(b1), and therefore revocation of Respondent's license is mandated by law.

BASED UPON the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Hearing Officer enters the following:

ORDER

It is ORDERED that Respondent's surety bail bondsman license is hereby **REVOKED**.

This 3rd day of March, 2026.


Amy Funderburk
Hearing Officer
N.C. Department of Insurance

APPEAL RIGHTS

This is a Final Agency Decision issued under the authority of N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B, Article 3A.

Under the provisions of N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-45, any party wishing to appeal a final decision of the North Carolina Department of Insurance must file a Petition for Judicial Review in the Superior Court of the County where the person aggrieved by the administrative decision resides, or in the case of a person residing outside the State, the county where the contested case which resulted in the final decision was filed. The appealing party must file the petition within 30 days after being served with a written copy of the Order and Final Agency Decision. In conformity with 11 NCAC 1.0413 and N.C.G.S. § 1A-1, Rule 5, this Order and Final Agency Decision was served on the parties on the date it was placed in the mail as indicated by the date on the Certificate of Service attached to this Order and Final Agency Decision. N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-46 describes the contents of the Petition and requires service of the Petition on all parties. The mailing address to be used for service on the Department of Insurance is: Amy Funderburk, General Counsel, 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1201.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

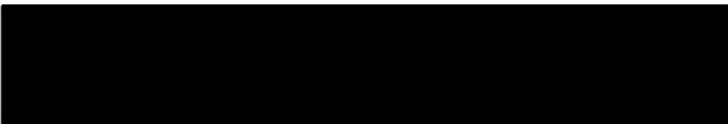
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the foregoing **ORDER and FINAL AGENCY DECISION** by mailing a copy of the same via certified U.S. mail, return receipt requested; and via first class U.S. mail to the Respondent at the address the licensee provided to the Commissioner pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(b), (d) and (e); via courtesy e-mail to Respondent; and via State Courier and courtesy e-mail to Attorney for Petitioner, addressed as follows:

Evan Vickers
1214 Hadel Place
Knightdale, NC 27545
Evickers1988@gmail.com
(Respondent)

Certified Mail Tracking Number: 9589 0710 5270 1723 5220 12

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(Attorney for Petitioner)

This the 3rd day of March, 2026



Raheema I. Moore
Clerk of Court for Administrative Hearings
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