NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

#113268

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF RICHARD GARY WOLFE LICENSE NO. 0000255590 VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

**NOW COME**, Richard Gary Wolfe (hereinafter "Mr. Wolfe") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

WHEREAS, the Department has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Life and Accident & Health or Sickness lines of insurance issued by the Department; 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, the California Department of Insurance instituted an investigation pursuant to a complaint made regarding allegations of forgery that involved Mr. Wolfe, wherein Mr. Wolfe decided to settle the matter without admitting guilt, and agreed to voluntarily surrender his license to act as an insurance agent in California effective February 8, 2017, and such administrative action was not reported to this Department in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe was assessed a monetary penalty in the amount of \$250.00 effective May 4, 2017 by the Mississippi Department of Insurance for failure to report the California action, and such administrative action was not reported to this Department in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe was fined by the Louisiana Department of Insurance effective May 18, 2017 in the amount of \$250.00 effective May 4, 2017 by the Louisiana Department of Insurance for failure to report the California action, and such administrative action was not reported to this Department in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe entered into a Consent Order with the Delaware Department of Insurance effective September 11, 2017 based on other state's action taken against his license and was fined in the amount of \$500.00, and such administrative action was not reported to this Department in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe did not report these administrative actions taken against his insurance producer's license within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k), and therefore was in violation thereof; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolfe admits to these violations of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k); 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, Mr. Wolfe has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Wolfe; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve these matters 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, Mr. Wolfe and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Wolfe shall pay a civil penalty of \$1000.00 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." Mr. Wolfe 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 <a href="March 19, 2018">March 19, 2018</a>. 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 Mr. Wolfe or in any other complaints involving Mr. Wolfe.

- 3. Mr. Wolfe 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. Wolfe 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. Wolfe 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 Mr. Wolfe shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him. 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 routinely provides copies of 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: Teresa Knowles
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 3-13-18

Date: 4/2/2018