

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

RECEIVED
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
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ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

IN RE:

PHILIP L. CROUSE
106 Mirage Court
Renfrew, Pennsylvania 16053

: VIOLATIONS:

: 40 Purdons Statutes, Sections
: 310.11 (9) and 310.11(20)

Respondent.

: Docket No. CO08-12-008

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this *20th* day of *January*, 2009, this Order is hereby
issued by the Insurance Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant
to the statutes cited above and in disposition of the matter captioned above.

1. Respondent hereby admits and acknowledges that he has received proper
notice of his rights to a formal administrative hearing pursuant to the Administrative
Agency Law, 2 Pa.C.S. § 101, et seq., or other applicable law.

2. Respondent hereby waives all rights to a formal administrative hearing in
this matter, and agrees that this Consent Order, and the Findings of Fact and
Conclusions of Law contained herein, shall have the full force and effect of an Order
duly entered in accordance with the adjudicatory procedures set forth in the
Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other applicable law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

3. The Insurance Department finds true and correct each of the following

Findings of Fact:

- (a) Respondent is Philip L. Crouse, and maintains his address at 106 Mirage Court, Renfrew, Pennsylvania 16053.
- (b) Respondent is a licensed Resident Producer with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. His License #329503 became effective April 1, 1976 and expires April 1, 2010.
- (c) Respondent, on or about May 20, 2003 as a Nationwide appointed agent provided unauthorized signatures on nationwide UM (Uninsured)/UM (Underinsured) Motorist Coverage Authorization forms for client, Jeffrey Rhodes.
- (d) Nationwide Insurance conducted an investigation of Respondent's activities, and effective April 17, 2008, Nationwide cancelled his agent agreement because of the unauthorized signatures on policyholder documents.

- (e) Respondent, on or about April 2, 2008, sent an electronic message to Nationwide, acknowledging that he had signed property and casualty forms for clients.
- (f) Respondent, on or about October 15, 2008 indicated to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department that he signed UM/UIM authorization forms for his client, Jeffrey Rhodes, and as a result, his Agent's Agreement with Nationwide was cancelled effective April 17, 2008.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

4. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and applicable provisions of law, the Insurance Department concludes and finds the following Conclusions of Law:

- (a) Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.
- (b) 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 310.11(9) prohibits a licensee from forging another person's name on an insurance application or any document related to an insurance or financial service transaction.
- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(c) violate 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 310.11(9).

- (d) 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 310.11(20) prohibits a licensee from demonstrating a lack of general fitness, competence or reliability sufficient to satisfy the Department that the licensee is worthy of licensure.
- (e) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) violate 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 310.11(20) .
- (f) Respondent's violations of Sections 310.11(9) and 310.11(20) are punishable by the following, under 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 310.91:
 - (i) suspension, revocation or refusal to issue the certificate of qualification or license;
 - (ii) imposition of a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for every violation of the Act;
 - (iii) an order to cease and desist; and
 - (iv) any other conditions as the Commissioner deems appropriate.

ORDER

5. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Insurance Department orders and Respondent consents to the following:

- (a) Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the activities described herein in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- (b) Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Payment of this penalty shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Payment should be directed to April Phelps, Bureau Secretary, Bureau of Licensing and Enforcement, 1227 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120. Payment may be enclosed with the Consent Order, but must be paid in any event no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the Consent Order.
- (c) Respondent's certificates and licenses may be immediately suspended by the Department following its investigation and determination that (i) penalty payment has not been made, or (ii) any other terms of this Order have not been complied with, or (iii) any complaint against Respondent is accurate and a statute or regulation has been violated. The Department's right to act under this section is limited to a period of five (5) years from the date of this Order.
- (d) Respondent specifically waives his right to prior notice of said suspension, but will be entitled to a hearing upon written request received by the Department no later than thirty (30) days after the date the Department mailed to Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, notification of said

suspension, which hearing shall be scheduled for a date within sixty (60) days of the Department's receipt of Respondent's written request.

- (e) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(d) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that he is worthy of a license.
- (f) In the event Respondent's certificates and licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph 5(c) above, and Respondent either fails to request a hearing within thirty (30) days or at the hearing fails to demonstrate that he is worthy of a license, Respondent's suspended certificates and licenses shall be revoked.

6. In the event the Insurance Department finds that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, the Department may pursue any and all legal remedies available, including but not limited to the following: The Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in an administrative action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other relevant provision of law; or, if applicable, the Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in any other court of law or equity having jurisdiction.

7. Alternatively, in the event the Insurance Department finds that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, the Department may declare this Order to

be null and void and, thereupon, reopen the entire matter for appropriate action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other relevant provision of law.

8. In any such enforcement proceeding, Respondent may contest whether a breach of the provisions of this Order has occurred but may not contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein.

9. Respondent hereby expressly waives any relevant statute of limitations and application of the doctrine of laches for purposes of any enforcement of this Order.

10. This Order constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters referred to herein, and it may not be amended or modified except by an amended order signed by all the parties hereto.

11. This Order shall be final upon execution by the Insurance Department. Only the Insurance Commissioner or a duly authorized delegee is authorized to bind the Insurance Department with respect to the settlement of the alleged violations of law

contained herein, and this Consent Order is not effective until executed by the
Insurance Commissioner or a duly authorized delegee.

BY: Philip L. Crouse
PHILIP L. CROUSE, Respondent

Ronald A. Gallagher, Jr.
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
By: Ronald A. Gallagher, Jr.
Deputy Insurance Commissioner