

RECEIVED  
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

ON DEC 17 PM 2:37

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	
JOHN J. LOWE	:	Sections 611-A(9), (20) and 696-A of
Post Office Box 110	:	Act 147 of 2002 (40 P.S. §§ 310.11
Elterton, PA 15736	:	and 310.96)
	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	Docket No. CO04-10-027

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this *17<sup>th</sup>* day of *December*, 2004, this Order is hereby issued by the Deputy Insurance Commissioner 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 Deputy Insurance Commissioner finds true and correct each of the following Findings of Fact:

- (a) Respondent is John J. Lowe, and maintains a mailing address at Post Office Box 110, Elterton, Pennsylvania 15736.
- (b) At all times herein, Respondent has been licensed as an insurance producer.
- (c) Between May 21, 2003 and November 26, 2003, Respondent placed the non-genuine signatures on American General Insurance Company premium refund checks and/or documents, for the following insureds, and converted the funds to his own use:

- (i) Fay Willey in the amount of \$7.50;
  - (ii) Harry Willey in the amount of \$7.50;
  - (iii) Nelson Provost on three checks in the amounts of \$819.10, \$70.48 and \$1,146.30;
  - (iv) Dennis F. Liegey in the amount of \$885.66;
  - (v) Stephanie Liegey-Lukens in the amount of \$877.66;
  - (vi) Kelly Michaels on a Cash Surrender Release form and check in the amount of \$1,016.71;
  - (vii) Wade Cutler on a Cash Surrender Release form and check in the amount of \$1,016.71;
  - (viii) Roger Nelson in the amount of \$75.00.
- (d) The majority of the above checks were for policies which were cash surrendered, however Wade Cutler reinstated his policy.
- (e) The total amount of checks cashed by Respondent was \$5,922.62.
- (f) American General Insurance Company made all insureds whole.
- (g) Respondent has made restitution to American General Insurance Company.

- (h) Respondent asserts he placed the checks into his desk drawer in his Clearfield, Pennsylvania office, however has no knowledge or involvement with cashing the above checks or placing signatures on Cash Surrender Releases.
- (i) Respondent has agreed to the revocation of his insurance licenses.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

- (a) Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.
- (b) Section 611-A(9) of Act 147 of 2002 prohibits a licensee from forging another person's name on an application for insurance or on any document related to an insurance or financial service transaction (40 P.S. § 310.11).
- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(i) constitute a violation of Section 611-A(9) of Act 147 of 2002.

- (d) Section 611-A(20) of Act 147 of 2002 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 (40 P.S. § 310.11).
  
- (e) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(i) violates Section 611-A(20) of Act 147 of 2002.
  
- (f) Section 696-A of Act 147 of 2002 requires every insurance producer to be responsible in a fiduciary capacity for all funds received or collected as an insurance agent or broker (40 P.S. § 310.96).
  
- (g) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(i) constitute a violation of acting in a responsible fiduciary capacity when handling funds received or collected as a producer and violates Section 696-A of Act 147 of 2002.
  
- (h) Respondent's violations of Sections 611-A(9), (20) and 696-A of Act 147 of 2002 are punishable by the following, under Section 691-A of Act 147 of 2002 (40 P.S. § 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 each 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 Deputy Insurance Commissioner 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) All licenses/certificates of Respondent to do insurance business are hereby revoked.
- (c) If Respondent should ever become licensed in the future, his certificates and licenses may be immediately suspended by the Department following its investigation and determination that (i) any terms of this Order have not been complied with, or (ii) any complaint against Respondent is accurate and a statute or regulation has been violated. The Department's right to act under (ii) above is limited to a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance of such certificates and licenses.

- (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 (d) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that he is worthy of an insurance certificate and 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 certificate and license, Respondent's suspended certificates and licenses shall be revoked.

6. In the event the Deputy Insurance Commissioner 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 Deputy Commissioner finds that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, the Deputy Commissioner 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.

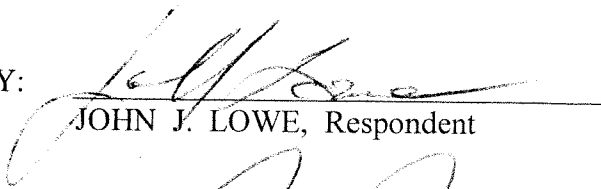
10. This Order constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters referred to herein, and it may not be amended or modified except by an amended order signed by all the parties hereto.

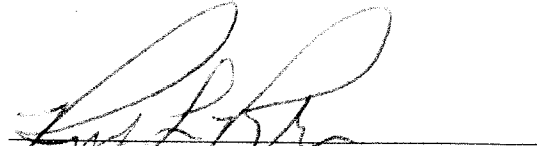
11. This Order shall be final upon execution by the Deputy Insurance Commissioner. Only the Insurance Commissioner or the duly authorized Deputy



Insurance Commissioner is authorized to bind the Insurance Department with respect to the settlement of the alleged violation of law contained herein, and this Consent Order is not effective until executed by the Insurance Commissioner or the duly authorized Deputy Insurance Commissioner.

BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN J. LOWE, Respondent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
RANDOLPH L. ROHRBAUGH  
Deputy Insurance Commissioner  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania