

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

RECEIVED
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
2011 SEP 26 AM 10:46
ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

IN RE: : VIOLATIONS:
: :
WILLIAM G. ASHCOM : 40 P.S. §§ 310.11(1), (13)
228 Hemlock Street : and 310.78(b)
Windber, PA 15963 : :
: :
Respondent. : Docket No. CO11-07-008

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this *26th* day of *September*, *2011*, 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 William G. Ashcom and maintains his address at 228 Hemlock Street, Windber, PA 15963.
- (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed title agent.
- (c) The Respondent was arrested by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office in January 2011 after he failed to appear at a court hearing related to at least eight (8) counts of failing to pay personal and corporate taxes. The Respondent pled guilty to four (4) of the charges.
- (d) Respondent failed to notify the department of the arrest and subsequent proceedings as required by law.
- (e) Respondent had indicated on two separate Department licensing applications (2007 & 2009) that he did not owe state personal taxes.
- (f) The Respondent has not worked as a title agent since May, 2009.

- (g) The Respondent has agreed to voluntarily surrender his title agent license to the Department.

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 P.S. § 310.11(1) prohibits a licensee or an applicant for a license from providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete or false information to the Department in a license application.
- (b) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(e) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(1).
- (d) 40 P.S. § 310.11(13) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from failing to pay state income tax or comply with any administrative or court order directing the payment of state income tax.

- (e) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(13).

- (f) 40 P.S. § 310.78(b) requires that within 30 days of being charged with criminal conduct, a licensee shall report the charges to the Department. The licensee shall provide the Department with a copy of the criminal complaint, information or indictment, a copy of the order resulting from any pretrial hearing, and a report of the final disposition of the charges.

- (g) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(c) violate 40 P.S. § 310.78(b).

- (h) Respondent's violations of Sections 310.11(1), (13) and 310.78(b) are punishable by the following, under 40 P.S. § 310.91:
 - (i) suspension, revocation or refusal to issue the 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 immediately surrender all licenses to conduct the business of insurance within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as of the date of this Consent Order.

- (c) If Respondent should ever become licensed in the future, his 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 this section is limited to a period of five (5) years from the date of issuance of such 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 5(d) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that he is worthy of an insurance license.
- (f) In the event Respondent's 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 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: William G. Ashcom
WILLIAM G. ASHCOM, Respondent

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