RELECTED

ABORDANCE DEPARTMEN

2017 JUL 21 AM 10: 27

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

IN RE: : VIOLATIONS:

MERCEDES BELLO : 40 P.S. §310.11(14), (20)

1166 Mulberry Street : and 310.78(b)

Reading, PA 19604

Respondent. : Docket No. CO17-06-008

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this 21st day of July , 2017, 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 she has received proper notice of her 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 Mercedes Bello and maintains her address at1166 Mulberry Street, Reading, PA 19604.
 - (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a resident producer.
 - (c) On April 26, 2017, Respondent admitted she had been arrested by the US Attorney's Office (Eastern District) on February 24, 2015 for Attempting to Defraud the United States in that, Respondent assisted in the cashing of fraudulent IRS tax return checks in the amount of \$3,300,000.00.
 - (d) On April 26, 2017, Respondent admitted that she plead guilty to the above charges on July 24, 2015.
 - (e) Respondent agreed to a payment plan of \$500 a month toward restitution to the United States Government until such time she repays the \$3,300,000 misappropriated through the IRS tax cashing scheme.

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(14) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from committing a felony or its equivalent.
 - (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraph 3(d) violate 40 P.S. §310.11(14).
 - (d) 40 P.S. §310.11(20) prohibits a licensee or an applicant 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) and 3(d) violate 40 P.S. §310.11(20).
 - (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(14), (20) 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) All license of Respondent to do the business of insurance are hereby revoked.
- (c) Future license applications, if any, will require a 1033 Waiver, pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, 18 U.S.C. Sections 1033 and 1034.
- (d) If Respondent should ever become licensed in the future, her 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.
- (e) Respondent specifically waives her 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.

- (f) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(e) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that she is worthy of an insurance license.
- (g) In the event Respondent's licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph 5(d) above, and Respondent either fails to request a hearing within thirty (30) days or at the hearing fails to demonstrate that she is worthy of a license, Respondent's suspended licenses shall be revoked.
- 6. In the event the Insurance Department find 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, <u>supra</u>, or other relevant provisions 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 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, <u>supra</u>, 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.

Respondent hereby expressly waives any relevant statute of limitations 9. 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 duly authorized delegee.

BY:

MERCEDES BELLO, Respondent

By: CHRISTOPHER R. MONAHAN

Deputy Insurance Commissioner

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:

The Act of April 9, 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175, known as The

Administrative Code of 1929

AND NOW, this <u>13+4</u> day of <u>November</u>, 2015, Christopher R. Monahan, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, is hereby designated as the Commissioner's duly authorized representative for purposes of entering in and executing Consent Orders. This delegation of authority shall continue in effect until otherwise terminated by a later Order of the Insurance Commissioner.

Teresa D. Miller

Insurance Commissioner

