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## BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ADMINIME ARINGS OF FICE

IN RE:

VIOLATIONS:

BENJAMIN JOSEPH WADE OWENS

40 P.S. §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(14)

216 Hawthorne Drive

and (20)

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Respondent.

Docket No. CO17-09-026

## CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this 6th day of October, 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 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 Benjamin Joseph Wade Owens, and maintains his address at 216 Hawthorne Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.
  - (b) Respondent does not possess a resident producer license.
  - (c) Respondent, on February 3, 2011, was convicted of felony Criminal

    Conspiracy-Burglary in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County
    and was sentenced to two (2) years' probation, which was successfully
    completed on February 3, 2013.
  - (d) Respondent, on March 22, 2012, was convicted of felony Criminal Conspiracy in the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County and was sentenced to three (3) years' probation which was successfully completed on March 22, 2015.
  - (e) Respondent previously electronically initiated an application for an initial resident producer license on March 28, 2016, wherein he fully disclosed his criminal history. The application was denied on June 6, 2016.

- (f) Respondent executed his right to appeal the denial and an administrative hearing was held on August 9, 2016.
- (g) Respondent, during the administrative hearing, agreed to withdraw his appeal and reapply after twelve (12) months.
- (h) Respondent electronically initiated a new application for a resident producer license on June 20, 2017, wherein he fully disclosed his criminal history.
- (i) Respondent has no other worthiness matters that would preclude the issuance of his license.

## 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 InsuranceDepartment.

- (b) 40 P.S. § 310.6(a)(6), states that the Department shall issue a producer license, provided the applicant possesses the general fitness, competence and reliability sufficient to satisfy the Department that the applicant is worthy of a license.
- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) violate 40 P.S. § 310.6(a)(6).
- (d) 40 P.S. § 310.11(14) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from committing a felony or its equivalent.
- (e) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(14).
- (f) 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.
- (g) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(20).
- (h) Respondent's violations of §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(14) and (20) 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's 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 confirmed 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.

- (c) 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.
- (d) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(c) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that he is worthy of a license.
- (e) In the event Respondent's licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph 5(b) 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 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 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:

BENJAMIN JOSEPH WADE OWENS,

Respondent

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

Jessica K. Altman

Acting Insurance Commissioner

