

# 2016 NOV -2 AM 11: 19

# ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

# BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: VIOLATIONS:

AGCS Marine Insurance Company

40 P.S. §310.72(b)(2)

33 West Monroe

Chicago, IL 60603

Respondent.

Docket No. CO16-06-022

#### CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this 2nd day of november, 2016, 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 it has received proper notice of its 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, <u>supra</u>, 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 AGCS Marine Insurance Company, and maintains its mailing address at 33 West Monroe, Chicago, IL 60603.
  - (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed insurer.
  - (c) Respondent employed a program named "Refer a Friend" that was a promotional offer of a \$25.00 gift card to insureds contingent upon a referral of a friend or family member who completed an application for a Petplan policy.

- (d) Respondent encouraged its insureds to sign up their friends for pet healthcare insurance in correspondence and on marketing materials.
- (e) Respondent provided a spreadsheet that affirmed it had received 274 referrals from 239 existing insureds since January 1, 2012, for which it had paid \$6,850.00 in compensation.
- (f) Respondent voluntarily cancelled the program when advised of the investigation by the Pennsylvania Insurance 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. §310.72(b)(2) states an insurance entity or licensee may pay a fee to a person that is not a licensee for referring to a licensee persons that are interested in purchasing insurance if the referring person does not discuss specific terms and conditions of a contract of insurance and, in the case of

referrals for insurance that is primarily for personal, family or household use, the referring person receives no more than a one-time, nominal fee of a fixed dollar amount for each referral that does not depend on whether the referral results in a sale.

- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(e) violate 40 P.S. §310.72(b)(2).
- (d) Respondent's violations of Sections 310.72(b)(2) are punishable by the following, under 40 Purdons Statutes, Section 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 pay a civil penalty of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) 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 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 fourteen (14) days after the date of the Consent Order.
- 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 Insurance 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 lackes 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 the duly authorized delegee 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 delegee.

BY: AGCS Marine Insurance Company,

Respondent

Propident / Vian Bungidant

10/3/12014

CHRISTOPHER R. MONAHAN
Deputy Insurance Commissioner
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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# 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</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

