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*By Admin Hearings, Ins Dept at 2:14 pm, Feb 07, 2022*

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	
AVENUE SETTLEMENT CORPORATION	:	40 P.S. §§ 310.11(1), (2), (19),
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite H	:	(20) and 310.78(a)
Washington, DC 20037	:	
	:	
	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	Docket No. CO22-02-001

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this 7th day of February, 2022, this Order is hereby issued by the Insurance Department of 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, 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 Avenue Settlement Corporation and maintains a record of its address with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department as 2401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite H, Washington, DC 20037.
- (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed Non-Resident Title Agency.
- (c) Respondent, on November 2, 2015, entered into a Consent Order with the Maryland Insurance Department and was fined \$250.00 for failure to timely file its 2014 annual report regarding its Maryland Affordable House Trust accounts.
- (d) Respondent, on July 18, 2017, submitted a license renewal and incorrectly answered "No" to the question that asks, "[h]as the business entity or any owner, partner, officer or director of the business entity, or manager or member of a limited liability company, been named or involved as a party in an administrative proceeding, including a FINRA sanction or arbitration proceeding regarding any professional or occupational license, or registration, which has not been previously reported to this insurance department?"

- (e) Respondent, on September 11, 2019, submitted a license renewal and incorrectly answered "No" to the question that asks, "[h]as the business entity or any owner, partner, officer or director of the business entity, or manager or member of a limited liability company, been named or involved as a party in an administrative proceeding, including a FINRA sanction or arbitration proceeding regarding any professional or occupational license, or registration, which has not been previously reported to this insurance department?"
- (f) Respondent, on October 4, 2019, entered into a Consent Order with the Florida Insurance Department and was fined \$2,500.00 for failure to timely file their 2019 Title Data.
- (g) Respondent, on May 5, 2021, entered into a Consent Order with the Florida Insurance Department and was fined \$2,500.00 for failure to timely file their 2020 Title Data.
- (h) Respondent failed to notify the Department of the administrative actions identified in findings 3(c), 3(f), and 3(g) within 30 days.
- (i) Respondent, on July 2, 2021, submitted a license renewal and correctly answered "Yes" to the question that asks, "[h]as the business entity or any owner, partner, officer or director of the business entity, or manager or member of a limited liability company, been named or involved as a party in an administrative proceeding, including a FINRA sanction or arbitration proceeding regarding any professional or occupational

license, or registration, which has not been previously reported to this insurance department?”

- (j) Respondent failed to provide the Department with any documentation as required regarding its “Yes” response on its license renewal identified in finding 3(i).
- (k) Respondent failed to notify the Department after changing its mailing address and business location address within 30 days.

#### 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.
- (c) Respondent’s activities described in paragraphs 3(d) and 3(e) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(1).

- (d) 40 P.S. § 310.11(2) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from violating the insurance laws or regulations of this Commonwealth or a subpoena or order of the commissioner or of another state's insurance commissioner.
- (e) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c), 3(d), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h), 3(j) and 3(k) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(2).
- (f) 40 P.S. § 310.11(19) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from failing to notify the Department of a change of address within 30 days.
- (g) Respondent's activities described in paragraph 3(k) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(19).
- (h) 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.
- (i) Respondent's activities described in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(k) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(20).
- (j) 40 P.S. § 310.78(a) requires a licensee to report any administrative action taken in another jurisdiction or by another governmental agency within 30 days of the final disposition, to include a copy of the order, consent order or other relevant legal documents.

- (k) Respondent's activities described in paragraph 3(h) violate 40 P.S. § 310.78(a).
- (l) Respondent's violations of 40 P.S. §§ 310.11(1), (2), (19), (20) and 310.78(a) 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 pay a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) 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 the Pennsylvania

Insurance Department, 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.

- (c) 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.
- (d) Respondent specifically waives its 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 it is worthy of a 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 it 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, 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.



