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BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:		:	VIOLATIONS:
KRISTINE BIXLER		:	40 P.S. §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(12)
20 East High Street, Apt. 1 Muncy, PA 17756		:	and (20)
		:	
	Applicant.	:	Docket No. CO23-08-020

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this <u>14th</u> day of <u>August</u>, <u>2023</u>, 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. Applicant 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. Applicant 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 Pennsylvania Insurance Department ("Department") finds true and correct each of the following Findings of Fact:
 - (a) Applicant is Kristine Bixler and maintains a record of her address with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department as 20 East High Street, Apt. 1, Muncy, PA 17756.
 - (b) Applicant does not possess a Resident Producer license.
 - (c) Applicant, on May 10, 2022, was convicted of Fraud Obtaining Food Stamps/Assistance, a misdemeanor, in the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania and was sentenced to five (5) years under the supervision of probation and restitution in the amount of \$9,035.20.
 - (d) Applicant is currently on probation with an anticipated completion date of May 10, 2027.
 - (e) Applicant, on August 17, 2022, was ordered to pay child support in the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Section.

- (f) Applicant, on May 17, 2023, entered into a Stipulated Agreement with the Domestic Relations Section for failing to pay the child support identified in Finding 3(e).
- (g) Applicant electronically initiated an application for a Resident Producer license on May 7, 2023, wherein she disclosed her criminal history.

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) Applicant is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Insurance

 Department.
 - (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) Applicant's activities described in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(f) could disqualify the Applicant from licensure pursuant to 40 P.S. §310.6(a)(6).
 - (d) 40 P.S. § 310.11(12) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from failing to comply with an administrative or court order imposing a child support obligation.

- (e) Applicant's activities described in paragraph 3(f) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(12).
- (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) Applicant's activities described in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(f) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(20).
- (h) Applicant's violations of 40 P.S. §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(12) 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, and as a condition of licensure, the Insurance Department orders and Applicant consents to the following:
 - (a) Applicant shall cease and desist from engaging in the activities described herein in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
 - (b) Applicant'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 Applicant 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 ten (10) years from the date of this Order.
 - (c) Applicant 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 Applicant 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 Applicant's written request.
 - (d) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(c) of this Order, Applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that she is worthy of a license.

- (e) In the event Applicant's licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph
 5(b) above, and Applicant either fails to request a hearing within thirty
 (30) days or at the hearing fails to demonstrate that she is worthy of a license, Applicant's suspended licenses shall be revoked.
- (f) Upon demand by the Department, Applicant must provide full and timely proof of compliance with any support obligation or court order related thereto. Failure to do so shall, in and of itself, be basis for suspending and revoking Applicant's licenses as provided for herein.
- 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, Applicant 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. Applicant 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.

KRISTINE BIXLER, Applicant

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

By: DAVID J. BUONO JR.

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 __31st __ day of __March_____, 2022, David J. Buono, Jr., 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.

Michael Humphreys
Acting Insurance Commissioner

