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BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:		:	VIOLATIONS:
		:	
CHRISTINA MARIE BRUNK		:	40 P.S. §§ 310.11(2), (6), (7),
236 Princess St.		:	(20), 1171.4 and 1171.5(a)(1)(i)
Hanover, PA 17331		:	
		:	
		:	
		:	
	Respondent.	:	Docket No. CO22-09-017

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this <u>27th</u> day of <u>September</u>, <u>2022</u>, 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 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 Pennsylvania Insurance Department ("Department") finds true and correct each of the following Findings of Fact:

- (a) Respondent is Christina Marie Brunk and maintains a record of her address with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department as 236 Princess Street, Hanover, PA 17331.
- (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed Resident Producer.
- (c) Respondent, on November 26, 2019, was terminated for cause from SureBridge Insurance for making misrepresentation on 31 supplemental insurance applications written in multiple states. These supplemental insurance applications included plans for Dental, Vision, Hospital Confinement Indemnity, Critical Illness, and Supplemental Specified Disease Cancer Benefit insurance plans.
- (d) Respondent was found to have submitted most applications as "Voice Enrollment" with an "Email or Text Signature." An "Email Signature" requires a PIN to be entered by the applicant in order to sign the applications. A "Text Signature" does not require a PIN; rather, the applicant must click on an embedded DocuSign link sent to the cell phone number listed on the application.

- (e) Respondent listed her personal phone number, rather than the insureds' allowing her to complete applications for consumers without their complete knowledge or understanding of the supplemental insurance products identified in finding (c).
- (f) Respondent, from December 2018 through January 2019, misrepresented supplemental insurance products as being mandatory to two (2)
 Pennsylvania insureds and issued an additional Pennsylvania insured a supplemental insurance product without their knowledge or consent.
- (g) Respondent, on June 7, 2022, stated during her Department Interview that she had been taught by her former sales leader, that if a client was having trouble completing their e-signature, she could put her phone number on their application so that she could get the verification code sent to her phone.
- (h) Respondent, on June 7, 2022, admitted during her Department Interview that she placed her telephone number instead of the insureds' telephone numbers on at least two (2) Pennsylvania insureds' applications in order to get the verification codes required to e-sign their insurance applications.
- (i) Respondent denied utilizing the verification code identified in finding (g) to sign these insureds applications; however, the IP address information provided by SureBridge Insurance linked the e-signing of these applications to the Respondent's home address.

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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(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.
- (c) Respondent's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c), 3(e), 3(f), 3(g), 3(h) and 3(i) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(2).
- (d) 40 P.S. § 310.11(6) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from committing any unfair insurance practice or fraud.
- (e) Respondent's activities described in paragraphs 3(d) through 3(i) violate40 P.S. § 310.11(6).
- (f) 40 P.S. § 310.11(7) prohibits a licensee or an applicant from using fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of doing business.

- (g) Respondent's activities described in paragraphs 3(d) through 3(i) violate40 P.S. § 310.11(7).
- (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(d) through 3(i) violate40 P.S. § 310.11(20).
- (j) 40 P. S. § 1171.4 prohibits agents from engaging in this Commonwealth in any trade practice which is defined or determined to be an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance pursuant to the Unfair Insurance Practices Act.
- (k) Respondent's activities described in paragraphs 3(d) through 3(i) constitute engaging in this Commonwealth in any trade practice which is defined or determined to be an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance pursuant to the Act and violate 40 P.S. § 1171.4.
- 40 P.S. § 1171.5(a)(1)(i) prohibits persons from misrepresenting the benefits, advantages, conditions or terms of any insurance policy.

- (m) Respondent's activities described in paragraphs 3(d) through 3(i)
 constitute misrepresenting the benefits, advantages, conditions or terms
 of any insurance policy and violate 40 P.S. § 1171.5(a)(1)(i).
- (n) Respondent's violations of 40 P.S. §§ 1171.4 and 1171.5(a)(1)(i) are punishable by the following, under 40 P.S. § 1171.9 and 1171.11:
 - (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.
- (o) Respondent's violations of 40 P.S. §§ 310.11(2), (6), (7) 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.

<u>ORDER</u>

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 licenses of Respondent to do the business of insurance are hereby revoked.
- (c) 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 ten (10) years from the date of issuance of such licenses.
- (d) 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

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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 she is worthy of an insurance 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 she 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, <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.

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.

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:

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CHRISTINA MARIE BRUNK, Respondent

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

