By Admin Hearings, Ins Dept at 3:01 pm, Dec 17, 2021

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

:

:

IN RE:

RECEIVED

CLAIRE L. MULES P.O. BOX 590101 HOUSTON, TX 77259

VIOLATIONS:

40 P.S. §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(1), (2), (20) and 310.78(a)

Applicant.

Docket No. CO21-11-021

CONSENT ORDER

:

AND NOW, this <u>17th</u> day of <u>December</u>, <u>2021</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. 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, <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) Applicant is Claire L. Mules and maintains a record of her address with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department as P.O. BOX 590101, Houston, TX 77259
- (b) Applicant is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed Non-Resident Producer Individual.
- (c) Applicant, on February 16, 2021, entered into a consent order with the Washington Department of Insurance, revoking her license due to failure to respond to the Washington Insurance Commissioner's tax unit.
- (d) Applicant, on May 10, 2021, entered into a consent order with the
 Washington Department of Insurance, rescinding the revocation order
 identified in finding 3(c) and was fined five hundred dollars.
- (e) Applicant failed to report the Washington Department of Insurance administrative actions identified in findings 3(c) and 3(d) to the Louisiana Department of Insurance within thirty (30) days and on June 9, 2021, she was fined two hundred and fifty dollars.

- (f) Applicant failed to report the administrative actions identified in findings3(c) and 3(d) to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department within 30 days.
- (g) Applicant electronically initiated an application for a Non-Resident
 Surplus Lines license on June 14, 2021, wherein, she failed to disclose the administrative actions identified in findings 3(c), 3(d), and 3(e).

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) would disqualify the Applicant from licensure pursuant to 40 P.S. §310.6(a)(6).
- (d) 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.

- (e) Applicant's activities described in paragraph 3(g) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(1).
- (f) 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.
- (g) Applicant's activities described above in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(e) violate 40 P.S. § 310.11(2).
- (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) Applicant's activities described in paragraphs 3(c) through 3(g) 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) Applicant's activities described in paragraph 3(f) violate 40 P.S. § 310.78(a).

- (1) Applicant's violations of 40 P.S. §§ 310.6(a)(6), 310.11(1), (2), (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.

<u>ORDER</u>

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 shall pay a civil penalty of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00)
 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) 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 five (5) years from the date of this Order.
- (d) 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.
- (e) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(d) of this Order, Applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that she is worthy of a license.
- (f) In the event Applicant's licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph
 5(c) 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.

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, 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.

BY:

CLAIRE L. MULES, Applicant

bung

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA By: DAVID J. BUONO JR. Acting Deputy Insurance Commissioner