# BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

FILED

JUN 02 2022

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. GLI MULREADY, Insurance Commission		INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OKLAHOMA
v. Pet	itioner, ) )	Case No. 21-0411-DIS
MATTHEW BENNETT, a resident producer,	) ) )	
Res	spondent. )	

# AGREED ORDER

**COMES NOW** the State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Glen Mulready, Insurance Commissioner, by and through counsel, Antuanya "Bo" DeBose, and Respondent Matthew Bennett, and agree to entry of this Agreed Order.

# **JURISDICTION**

The parties stipulate to the following:

- 1. Glen Mulready is the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oklahoma and, as such, is charged with the duty of administering and enforcing all provisions of the Oklahoma Insurance Code, 36 O.S. §§ 101-7401, including the Oklahoma Producer Licensing Act, 36 O.S. § 1435.1 et seq.
- 2. Respondent Matthew Bennett ("Respondent") holding license number 100230987, was licensed by the State of Oklahoma as a resident insurance producer as defined and required by 36 O.S. § 1435.2(7). His address of record is 2132 S. 77<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129-2418.
- 3. The Insurance Commissioner has jurisdiction over the subject matter raised in this

dispute and may issue penalties pursuant to 36 O.S. § 1435.13(A) and (D).

- 4. The Insurance Commissioner, pursuant to 36 O.S. § 319, has appointed an independent hearing examiner who shall sit as a quasi-judicial officer.
- 5. Informal disposition of this matter may be made by agreed settlement pursuant to 75 O.S. §309(E).

# STIPULATIONS OF FACT

- 1. The Anti-Fraud Unit of the Oklahoma Insurance Department ("OID") received a referral alleging Respondent engaged in improper conduct by submitting a policy application for a deceased client to Oxford Life Insurance Company ("Oxford"). The OID assigned Investigator Rick Koch ("Investigator Koch") to investigate the matter.
- 2. Carmella Storto investigated this matter on behalf of Oxford. Oxford received an electronic policy application dated February 26, 2021 for whole life coverage in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) in the name of Phyllis Anson ("Anson") of Ponca City, Oklahoma. The application was electronically signed and initialed in the name of Anson and has Respondent's name listed as the selling agent.
- Oxford noticed errors on the application and instructed that corrections be made.
   On March 4, 2021, Oxford received a second electronic application for Anson with the requested corrections.
- 4. On or about March 12, 2021, Oxford received a phone call from Anson's son, advising that Anson had passed away on November 25, 2020 and could not have signed the policy application(s) dated February 26, 2021 or March 2, 2021.
- 5. Following the phone call from Anson's son, Oxford interviewed Respondent via email and phone. Respondent admitted he signed Anson's name to the application(s) and

submitted them to Oxford. At the conclusion of the interview, Respondent was terminated for cause.

- 6. Respondent's Oklahoma resident producer license expired July 31, 2021.
- 7. Respondent attests that he is no longer working in the insurance industry in the State of Oklahoma.
- 8. Pursuant to 36 O.S. §1435.13(F), the Insurance Commissioner shall retain the authority to enforce the provisions of and impose any penalty or remedy authorized by the Oklahoma Producer Licensing Act and this title against any person who is under investigation for or charged with a violation of the Oklahoma Producer Licensing Act or this title even if the person's license or registration has been surrendered or has lapsed by operation of law.
- 9. Pursuant to the provisions of 36 O.S. §1435.13, the Insurance Commissioner may place on probation, censure, suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew a license issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Producer Licensing Act or may levy a civil penalty in accordance with subsection D of this section or any combination of actions, for any one or more of the following causes:
  - a. Using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere;
  - b. Forging another's name to an application for insurance or to any documents related to an insurance transaction;
- 10. Pursuant to 36 O.S. §1435.13(D), in addition to or in lieu of any applicable denial, probation, censure, suspension or revocation of a license, a person may, after opportunity

for hearing, be subject to a civil fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each occurrence. Said penalty may be enforced in the same manner in which civil judgments may be enforced.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Respondent violated 36 O.S. §1435.13(A)(8), demonstrating fraudulent, dishonest, and untrustworthy practices by submitting a policy application for a deceased client to Oxford Insurance Company.
- 2. Respondent violated 36 O.S. §1435.13(A)(10) by forging Anson's name to application(s) for whole life insurance after Ms. Anson was deceased.

#### ORDER

TT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Insurance Commissioner and AGREED by Respondent that his resident producer license number 100230987 is hereby REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Insurance Commissioner and AGREED by Respondent that he is hereby FINED in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00). The fine shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of this Agreed Order and made payable to the Oklahoma Insurance Department, located at 400 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105.

WITNESS My Hand and Official Seal this 2rd day of April 2022



GLEN MULREADY
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Hearing Examiner

ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

Matthew Bennett RESPONDENT

# CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Antunnya "Bo" DeBose, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Agreed Order was mailed by first class U.S. Mail and by certified mail with postage prepaid and return receipt requested on this day of April, 2022 to:

Matthew Bennett 2132 S. 77<sup>8</sup> East Ave Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129-2418

and that a copy was delivered to:

Licensing & Anti-Fraud Division

Antunnya "Bo" DeBose



Date Produced: 06/13/2022

#### OKLAHOMA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE item number 9214 8902 0982 7500 0466 62. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 06/06/2022 at 03:06 p.m. in TULSA, OK 74129. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient:

Address of Recipient:

Thank you for selecting the Postal Service for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local post office or Postal Service representative.

Sincerely, United States Postal Service

The customer reference number shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

This USPS proof of delivery is linked to the customers mail piece information on file as shown below:

MATTHEW BENNETT 2132 S 77TH EAST AVE TULSA OK 74129-2418

Customer Reference Number: C3466881.20343239

Return Reference Number SMS/22-0411-DIS (ASD)/Agreed Order



#### Return address:

OKLAHOMA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT 5 CORPORATE PLAZA OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112

MAILING DATE: 06/02/2022 DELIVERY DATE: 06/06/2022

### Recipient address:

MATTHEW BENNETT 2132 S 77TH EAST AVE TULSA OK 74129-2418

**USPS CERTIFIED MAIL** 



9214 8902 0982 7500 0466 62

USPS Tracking Label Number: 9214 8902 0982 7500 0466 62

<b>USPS Tracking History</b>	Location	Date / Time
PRE-SHIPMENT INFO SENT USPS AWAITS ITEM	OKLAHOMA CITY,OK 73105	06/02/2022 15:52
SHIPMENT RECEIVED ACCEPTANCE PENDING	OKLAHOMA CITY,OK 73118	06/02/2022 16:00
ORIGIN ACCEPTANCE	OKLAHOMA CITY,OK 73105	06/02/2022 21:06
PROCESSED THROUGH USPS FACILITY	OKLAHOMA CITY OK DISTRIBUTION C 73107	06/02/2022 22:21
DEPARTED USPS REGIONAL FACILITY	OKLAHOMA CITY OK DISTRIBUTION C 73107	06/03/2022 07:37
PROCESSED THROUGH USPS FACILITY	TULSA OK DISTRIBUTION CENTER 74141	06/04/2022 14:43
DEPARTED USPS REGIONAL FACILITY	TULSA OK DISTRIBUTION CENTER 74141	06/04/2022 21:57
PROCESSED THROUGH USPS FACILITY	TULSA OK DISTRIBUTION CENTER 74141	06/05/2022 04:02
DELIVERED LEFT WITH INDIVIDUAL	TULSA,OK 74129	06/06/2022 15:06

CASE NUMBER: 22-0411-DIS DEPARTMENT: LEGAL/ASD

SENDER: SMS

**CUSTOM 4: AGREED ORDER**