

**BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

FILED

FEB 06 2024

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. GLEN)
MULREADY, Insurance Commissioner,)
)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
)
ASHLEY SHANTA JENNINGS, a licensed bail)
bondsman in the State of Oklahoma,)
)
AND)
)
CURTIS WAYNE PLETCHER, a multicounty)
agent bondsman licensed in the state of Oklahoma,)
)
Respondents.)

**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OKLAHOMA**

Case No. 23-0622-DIS

FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

That on February 5, 2023, a show cause hearing was held on the Oklahoma Insurance Department's ("OID") *Conditional Administrative Order and Notice of Right to be Heard and Notice of Hearing*, filed December 12, 2023 and January 23, 2024, respectively. The hearing was held at the office of OID before Independent Hearing Examiner Stephan Mathis. Present at the hearing were Teresa L. Green, Senior Counsel for OID; Lewis Garrison, Director of Bail Bonds Division at OID; Ashley Shanta Jennings ("Respondent Jennings"); and Curtis Wayne Pletcher ("Respondent Pletcher"). Respondent Jennings and Respondent Pletcher appeared pro se. Exhibits were presented and arguments heard.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Hearing Examiner makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. That OID has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 1301 et seq.

2. That the Insurance Commissioner has the authority to render an order concerning the above-styled matter and has lawfully appointed Independent Hearing Examiner Stephan Mathis, who sat as a quasi-judicial officer pursuant to 36 O.S. § 319.

3. Respondent Jennings is a licensed bail bondsman in the State of Oklahoma holding license number 40055761. (*See* Pet.'s Ex. 1.; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.) Respondent Jennings' address of record is [REDACTED]

4. Respondent Pletcher is a multicounty agent bondsman in the state of Oklahoma holding license number 199574. (*See* Pet.'s Ex. 2; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.) Respondent Pletcher's address of record is P.O. Box 66, Springer, OK 73458. (*See id.*)

5. On February 3, 2022, an appearance bond was filed as follows:

Defendant:	Lionel Stewart
Case Number(s):	CM-2023-230
City/County:	Oklahoma County
Surety:	Curt Pletcher
Bondsman:	Ashley Jennings
Power Number(s):	171165
Bond Amount(s):	\$500.00

(*See* Pet.'s Ex. 3; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.)

7. On May 3, 2023, the Defendant failed to appear in Oklahoma County case number CM-2023-230. (*See* Pet.'s Ex. 4; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.) An Order and Judgment of Forfeiture was issued in CM-2023-230 on May 15, 2023, by the Oklahoma County District Court. (*See* Pet.'s Ex. 5; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.) A true and correct copy of the Order and

Judgment of Forfeiture was mailed to Respondent Jennings and Respondent Pletcher with return receipt requested within thirty (30) days after the Order's filing. (*See id.*)

8. Respondent Jennings received a copy of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture in CM-2023-230 on June 15, 2023. (*See id.*)

9. Respondent Pletcher received a copy of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture in CM-2023-230 on May 19, 2023. (*See id.*)

10. The ninety-first (91st) day after receipt of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture was September 14, 2023.

11. The forfeiture in CM-2023-230 was paid on September 18, 2023. (*See Pet.'s Ex. 4; Testimony of Lewis Garrison.*)

12. Forfeiture was not timely paid, and the defendant was not timely returned to custody.

13. Respondent Jennings has three prior administrative actions with the OID.

14. Respondent Pletcher has at least 79 prior administrative actions with the OID.

15. Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1332(D) and OAC 365:25-5-40, if the defendant is not returned to custody nor the forfeiture has been stayed, the bondsman and insurer whose risk it is shall pay the forfeiture to the court clerk within ninety-one (91) days of receipt of the order and judgement of forfeiture from the court clerk.

16. Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1310(A)(2) and (28), the Insurance Commissioner may deny, censure, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act for failing to pay any fees to a district court clerk as are required by the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act or for violation of any laws of this state.

17. Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1310(B), in addition to any potential denial, censure, suspension, or revocation, any person violating any provision of the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act may be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$2,500.00 for each occurrence.

18. Pursuant to 36 O.S. § 319, the ordinary fees and cost of a hearing examiner shall be assessed by the hearing examiner against the respondent, unless the respondent is the prevailing party.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

19. Respondents violated 59 O.S. § 1310(A)(2) and (28), by failing to return the defendant to custody within ninety (90) days or remit payment in the face amount of the bond forfeiture within ninety-one (91) days from receipt of the order and judgment of forfeiture in accordance with the provisions of 59 O.S. § 1332 and OAC 365:25-5-40.

20. Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1310(B), any bondsman violating a provision of the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act, 59 O.S. §§ 1301 et seq., may be subject to a fine of not less than \$250.00 but not more than \$2,500.00 per violation.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that it has been established by clear and convincing evidence that Respondents violated 59 O.S. § 1310(A)(2) and (28). As a result, Respondent Jennings is fined One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for her violations of 59 O.S. § 1310(A)(2) and (28) and Respondent Pletcher is fined Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for his violations of 59 O.S. § 1310(A)(2) and (28).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Respondents shall each pay costs in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00), which is fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of the administrative hearing of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00). All fines and costs shall be paid within thirty (30) days of this order and made payable to the Oklahoma Insurance Department. The fines and cost shall be paid by check, money order, or cashier's check and indicate the case number on the method of payment.

Done this 6th day of February, 2024.



GLEN MULREADY
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephan Mathis". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

STEPHAN MATHIS
Independent Hearing Examiner
Oklahoma Insurance Department
400 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105