

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: June 25, 2020

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST LICENSEES OR REGISTRANTS UNDER THE INSURANCE LAW

The New York State Department of Financial Services has taken disciplinary action against the following licensees and registrants. Those categorized as stipulations or consent orders have been agreed to by the licensee or registrant. Department actions that result from Department hearings are subject to judicial review and possible stay of enforcement.

STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

Region: Mid-Island

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Albert J. Bermas (Independent Adjuster)	560 N. Suffolk Avenue Massapequa, NY 11758	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an independent adjuster's license that he was convicted of a misdemeanor in 1993. [Stipulation approved May 7, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Steven Montick (Independent Adjuster)	c/o Monti's Auto Works Inc 1791 Montauk Highway Bellport, NY 11713	\$3,750 fine
Respondent filed fraudulent tax returns with the New York Department of Taxation and Finance on behalf of Monti's Auto Works, Inc., a business of which Respondent owns 70 percent; as a result of the foregoing Respondent was convicted of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fifth Degree; Respondent failed to disclose the aforesaid criminal prosecution in his renewal application for an independent adjuster's license; and Respondent failed to report the aforesaid criminal prosecution within 30 days of the initial pretrial hearing. [Stipulation approved May 13, 2020]		

Region: New York

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Michael A. Valinoti (Agent)	1524 86th Street Brooklyn, NY 11228	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on his renewal application for an agent's license that he was found liable in a FINRA arbitration proceeding involving allegations of fraud and negligent misrepresentation. [Stipulation approved May 6, 2020.]		

Region: Rochester

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Kenneth K. Kruger (Broker)	54 Vick Part B Rochester, NY 14607	\$2,250 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on his original application for a life broker's license that his appointment with an insurance company was terminated for cause and failed to repay the insurance company money owed in connection with the aforementioned appointment termination prior to the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2020.]		

Region: Utica

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Bob Putnam Agency Inc. (Agent)	106 Chestnut Street P.O. Box 347 Cooperstown, NY 13326	\$1,000 fine
Michele H. Putnam (Agent and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents negligently issued an ID card to an insured containing incorrect information regarding automobile insurance, causing the insured to have a lapse in automobile insurance coverage. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2020.]		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Michael Joseph Azzato (Agent and Broker)	328 Newman Springs Road Red Bank, NJ 07701	\$1,750 fine
Respondent identified himself as a client during a telephone call that Respondent made to Prudential regarding the client's Prudential contracts. Respondent also failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license and his original application for a broker's license that an insurer, Allstate, terminated Respondent's New York Financial Specialist Agreement for alleged misconduct. [Stipulation approved April 30, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jean Richard Bernard (Agent)	3345 Rockwood Drive Ellenwood, GA 30294	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on his original application for an agent's license that he had previously been convicted of a misdemeanor. [Stipulation approved April 30, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Roderick A. Finnegan (Agent and Proposed Sublicensee)	Vetinsure Insurance Services LLC 2410 Hog Mountain Road Watkinsville, GA 30677	\$2,250 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on his original application for a broker's license that the Office of the Commissioner in the State of Wisconsin denied Vetinsure Insurance Services LLC's license application for failing to provide information or for an incomplete application; Respondent failed to disclose the aforesaid administrative action taken against Vetinsure Insurance Services LLC by the State of Wisconsin as well as administrative actions taken against Vetinsure Insurance Services LLC by the Indiana Department of Insurance on his renewal application for a broker's license and on his re-licensing application for an agent's license. [Stipulation approved May 6, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Stephanie Marie Galloway (Agent)	1923 Belmont Lane, A Redondo Beach, CA 90278	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was the subject of administrative action taken by the California Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved May 13, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Corinne Nelson (Agent)	2153 Fluorshire Drive Brandon, FL 33511	License Revoked
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was convicted of a misdemeanor. [Stipulation approved May 8, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Aaron G. Roberts (Independent Adjuster)	13224 132nd Street Overland Park, KS 66213	\$1,000 fine
Respondent acted as an insurance adjuster in the State of New York without having authority to do so by virtue of a license issued and in force pursuant to the provisions of the Insurance Law. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Scott Ross (Agent)	18 Watson Street Carnegie, PA 15106	\$1,000 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the initial pretrial hearing date that Respondent was the subject of a criminal prosecution that resulted in Respondent being convicted of a misdemeanor in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Respondent also failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that he was fined by the Louisiana Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved May 13, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
NANTS Title Agency LLC (Title Insurance Agent) John B. Shafer (Sublicensee)	760 NW 107 th Avenue Miami, FL 33172 Same as above	\$500 fine
Respondents failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent NANTS Title Agency LLC was the subject of administrative action taken by the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. [Stipulation approved April 30, 2020.]		