

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: May 28, 2021

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.

AGENT/BROKER HEARINGS

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Dawatie Sewnarine (Agent)	112-12 Jamaica Avenue Richmond Hill, NY 11418	License Revoked
Respondent, with intent to defraud New York State or a political subdivision thereof, submitted six applications for public assistance benefits that Respondent knew contained materially false information. Respondent was convicted in New York State of felony counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. Respondent gave a false answer in two original license applications, in response to a question which asked Respondent if she had ever been convicted of a felony. [Order issued June 23, 2020.]		

STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

Region: Mid-Island

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Louis Vaccarelli (Agent)	6800 Jericho Tpke, Suite 120 West Syosset, NY 11791	License Revoked
Respondent, in or about August 2016, allowed an unlicensed person to solicit from and/or negotiate with an insured on Respondent's behalf regarding two annuity contracts; in 2016, Respondent submitted to an insurer several applications for annuities that contained incorrect residential addresses of the applicants; Respondent also failed to timely or sufficiently respond to Department letters of inquiry. [Stipulation approved March 25, 2021.]		

Region: Nassau

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Premier Risk LLC (Agent, Broker, Excess Line Broker, and Consultant)	142 Lakeview Avenue Lynbrook, NY 11563	\$9,000 fine
Maria Cafiero (Agent, Broker, Life Broker and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Santa J. Cafiero (Agent, Broker, and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents, during the period July 25, 2008 through February 9, 2021, allowed a person to participate in the business of insurance, and such person had been convicted of a felony that involved dishonesty or a breach of trust and had not received written consent to engage in the business of insurance from a regulatory official, as required by 18 U.S.C. §1033. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2021.]		

Region: New York

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
COBB B LLC t/b/a Lamb Insurance Services (Agent, Broker and Life Broker)	145 West 45 th Street New York, NY 10036	\$500,000 fine
Joshua Aaron Lamberg (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
During the approximate period of January 2011 through January 2019, Respondent COBB B LLC t/b/a Lamb Insurance Services paid commissions to unlicensed individuals to transact the business of insurance in New York State. [Stipulation approved April 8, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Emanuel E. Pantelakis (Agent, Broker, and Life Broker)	213-16 48th Avenue Bayside, NY 11364	License Revoked
<p>The State of New Jersey Bureau of Securities revoked Respondent's agent registration. Respondent failed to disclose the New Jersey proceeding in six license applications he submitted to the Department; Respondent was arraigned on criminal charges in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. Respondent failed to report said criminal prosecution to the Superintendent within thirty days of the initial pretrial hearing date; Respondent was convicted of a felony within the meaning of Section 211 0(a)(7) of the Insurance Law in that in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on December 1, 2017, Respondent pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, a felony, and on November 8, 2018, judgment was entered and Respondent was sentenced; After Respondent was convicted of the felony of Conspiracy to Commit Securities Fraud, Respondent engaged in the business of insurance without the written consent of a regulatory official required by 18 U.S.C. §1033; On May 30, 2018, as the result of an administrative proceeding, Respondent was permanently barred by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") from association with any broker, dealer, investment adviser or municipal securities dealer; and in three license applications he submitted to the Department, Respondent failed to disclose in the applications: (1) the criminal case in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, (2) the SEC proceeding that led to the permanent bar, and (3) the disciplinary proceeding by the New Jersey Bureau of Securities that led to the revocation of Respondent's agent registration. [Stipulation approved April 16, 2021.]</p>		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Rolonda A. Allen (Agent)	2019 Drake Court Walk Omaha, NE 68102	\$750 fine
<p>Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was the subject of an administrative action taken by the California Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved April 8, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Bullock Agency Inc. (Agent)	1433 Lancaster Avenue St. Charles, IL 60174	\$1,500 fine
John T. Bullock (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the Louisiana Department of Insurance took administrative actions against Respondent Bullock Agency Inc. [Stipulation approved March 24, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Gabriela Caballero (Agent)	13070 Bowdoin Drive El Paso, TX 79928	\$1,000 fine
<p>Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of each matter that (1) the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Insurance denied Respondent's application for a license, (2) the Insurance Commissioner of the State of California denied Respondent's application for an unrestricted license to act as an agent and issued Respondent a restricted license to act as an agent, and (3) the Florida Department of Financial Services denied Respondent's application for licensure as an agent. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Certified Financial Services LLC (Agent)	52 Forest Avenue Paramus, NJ 07652	\$500 fine
Thomas A. Ciardella (Agent and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents violated Section 2114 of the Insurance Law in that they paid compensation to an unlicensed individual for services in obtaining a life insurance policy in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved March 31, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Michael A. Ferrone (Agent)	c/o Certified Financial Services 52 Forest Avenue Paramus, NJ 07652	\$500 fine
Respondent aided an unlicensed individual in being paid compensation by Certified Financial Services LLC, for obtaining a life insurance policy in the State of New York, in violation of Section 2114 of the Insurance Law. [Stipulation approved April 21, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Liam C. Kemmerley (Agent and Broker)	1518 Leopard Way Berwyn, PA 19312	\$200,000 fine
Respondent, during the approximate period February 2012 through May 2019, while working for Cobb B LLC a/k/a Lamb Insurance Services, transacted insurance business in the State of New York without the benefit of a license. [Stipulation approved April 8, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Leon John Munyan (Agent – License Pending)	13201 S 34 th Way Phoenix, AZ 85044	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on his original application to act as an agent that he was the subject of an administrative action taken by the Department of Insurance of Washington State. [Stipulation approved March 31, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Matthew Rogers (Agent)	252 N 184 th Court Elkhorn, NE 68022	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that he was the subject of an administrative action taken by the California Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved March 17, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jordan Alexander Rojas (Agent)	c/o Geico Marine Insurance Company PO Box 1040 Springfield, VA 22151	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the initial pretrial hearing date that Respondent was the subject of a criminal prosecution. [Stipulation approved April 22, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Flamur Sopi (Agent and Life Broker)	9506 SW 1st Court Coral Springs, FL 33071	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that: (a) in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Respondent pled guilty to two felony charges, and the Court withheld adjudication; and (b) Respondent was fined by the Florida Department of Financial Services. [Stipulation approved April 21, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Mercury Financial Group LLC (Agent and Life Broker)	1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202	\$500 fine
Steven Timothy Taber (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent Mercury Financial Group LLC was the subject of administrative action taken by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. [Stipulation approved October 23, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Castleline Risk and Insurance Services LLC (Broker – Relicensing Pending) Justin Vedder (Agent, Broker, Excess Line Broker and Proposed Sublicensee)	1000 Abernathy Road Atlanta, GA 30328 Same as above	\$1,750 fine
<p>Respondent Justin Vedder failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of each matter that Respondent Justin Vedder was the subject of administrative actions taken by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Insurance. Respondents failed to disclose on Respondent Castleline Risk and Insurance Services LLC’s relicensing application to act as a broker the aforementioned administrative actions brought by the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved April 21, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Bill J. Walton (Life Broker)	c/o Accelerated Wealth 13570 Meadowgrass Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921	\$1,750 fine
<p>Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that he was the subject of administrative actions taken by the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. Respondent failed to disclose on his renewal application to act as a life broker that he was the subject of the aforementioned administrative actions taken by the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. [Stipulation approved April 21, 2021.]</p>		