

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: March 4, 2022

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.

COMPANY STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA.	1271 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 37 New York, NY 10020	\$50,000 fine
New Hampshire Insurance Company	Same as above	
Granite State Insurance Company	Same as above	
Illinois National Insurance Company	Same as above	
Respondents, for the time period April 2014 to March 2020, failed to charge rates in accordance with filed and approved rates and rating rules; and failed to maintain adequate procedures to minimize the occurrence of improperly charged rates. By reason of the foregoing, Respondents violated Section 160.2(c) and (g) of Insurance Regulation 57 [11 NYCRR 160]. [Consent Order approved November 9, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America	One Tower Square Hartford, CT 06183	\$75,000 fine
Respondent, for the time period May 2010 to January 2017, issued impermissible group commercial theft/crime policies providing fidelity crime coverage to member companies of auto repossession associations; and with respect to the aforementioned impermissible group policies issued, delivered, and utilized unfiled policy forms, rates, and rating rules. [Consent Order approved November 9, 2021.]		

AGENT/BROKER HEARINGS

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Denis Louis (Agent)	1401 East 93rd Street Brooklyn, NY 11238	\$2,500 fine
Respondent, while working as an agent for New York Life Insurance and Annuity Corporation, submitted documents associated with life insurance policies purporting to be signed by the applicants when in fact they were not; Respondent signed a statement saying he arranged for his brother to deliver the insurance policies to the policy holders residing in the State of Florida; Respondent failed to notify the Department that his business address changed within thirty days of the change. [Order issued August 31, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Thomas Massotti t/b/a High Ridge Agency (Agent, Broker, and Excess Line Broker)	266 High Ridge Road Stamford, CT 06905	\$2,000 fine
Respondent failed to remit an insurance premium payment to an insurer, thereby causing the policy to lapse and be cancelled. Respondent also failed to timely refund the unremitted insurance premium. Respondent failed to respond to Department of Financial Services letters of inquiry, thereby hampering and impeding the Department's investigation. [Order issued August 27, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Latoya Renee Pew (Agent)	202 Bridgeway Drive Warner Robins, GA 31088	License Revoked
Respondent failed to notify the Department within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter that she was the subject of administrative actions by the Florida Department of Financial Services and the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner; Respondent failed to disclose in her original and renewal applications for an agent's license that she had pled nolo contendere to a felony; and failed to respond to the Department's letters thereby hampering and impeding the Department's investigation. [Order issued October 20, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Kareemah Thompson (agent)	2708 French Street Philadelphia, PA 19121	License Revoked
Respondent failed to disclose a criminal conviction in her original and relicensing applications; failed to notify the Department of a criminal prosecution in 2014 within thirty days of the pretrial hearing date; and failed to respond to Departmental investigatory letters thereby hampering and impeding the Department's investigation. [Order issued September 30, 2021.]		

STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

Region: Mid-Island

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
First Heritage Insurance Agency Inc. (Agent and Broker)	324 South Service Road Melville, NY 11747	\$11,500 fine
Patrick John Riley (Broker and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents violated Section 2116 of the Insurance Law in that they paid compensation to unlicensed individuals for acting as insurance brokers in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved January 11, 2022.]		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
David A. Brackenbury (Life Broker)	3236 Greenmeadow Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent was the subject of administrative action taken by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. [Stipulation approved December 29, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Illumifin Corporation (Independent Adjuster)	2000 Wade Hampton Blvd Greenville, SC 29615	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in its original application for an independent adjuster's license and in a renewal application for an independent adjuster's license that Respondent had been fined by the Nevada Division of Insurance. [Stipulation approved January 26, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jorge J. Melara (Independent Adjuster)	9115 Palmetto Avenue Fontana, CA 92335	License Revoked
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for a license to act as an independent adjuster that the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Indiana denied Respondent's application for an independent adjuster's license. Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter that the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware revoked Respondent's license as an adjuster. [Stipulation approved January 6, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Michael Ng (Broker)	24 Front Road Derry, NH 03038	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent was the subject of administrative action taken by the New Hampshire Insurance Department. [Stipulation approved January 11, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Elvis Amable Rodriguez (Life Broker)	4411 Estates Road Davie, FL 33328	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for a life broker's license that he had been convicted of a misdemeanor. [Stipulation approved January 26, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Robert L. Ryan Jr. (Agent)	3907 73rd ST Urbandale, IA 50322	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that he was the subject of administrative action taken by the State of Iowa, Insurance Division. [Stipulation approved January 26, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Edward R. Williams (Independent Adjuster)	19106 Providence Circle Lithonia, GA 30038	\$2,750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in a renewal application for a license to act as an independent adjuster that Respondent's adjuster license in the State of Georgia was placed on probation for twelve months, and failed to report the aforesaid administrative action to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter. Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter an administrative action taken against Respondent in the State of Florida, whereby Respondent's license as a nonresident adjuster was suspended. Respondent failed to notify the Superintendent and the Department that Respondent's business address and residence address had changed within thirty days of the change. Respondent failed to respond to Department letters sent to Respondent in connection with an investigation of the foregoing matters, and thereby hampered and impeded the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved January 14, 2022.]		