

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: June 6, 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.

HEARINGS

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Selestino Sauseda (Agent)	2659 Diamondback Trail New Braunfels, TX 78130	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter the administrative action taken against him by the North Dakota Insurance Department, as required pursuant to Section 2110(i) of the Insurance Law. Respondent failed to respond to Department letters of inquiry, thereby hampering and impeding the Department's investigation. [Order dated December 3, 2021.]		

COMPANY CONSENT ORDERS

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.	3000 Schuster Lane Merrill, WI 54452	\$25,000 fine
Respondent, for the time period January 1, 2016, to January 29, 2019, 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. [Consent Order approved April 20, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Erie Insurance Company of New York	100 Erie Insurance Place Erie, PA 16530	\$19,000 fine
Erie Insurance Company	Same as above	
For the calendar year 2020, Respondents failed to comply with the two percent (2%) limitation for private passenger automobile non-renewals in the calendar year. [Consent Order approved April 20, 2022.]		

STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

Region: Buffalo

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jeffrey Adam Hoffman (Agent)	68 East Center Road West Seneca, NY 14224	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that on or about August 6, 2010, Respondent entered into a Withdrawal Agreement with the New York State Education Department, by which Respondent agreed to irrevocably withdraw his application for permanent certificate as a teacher of music, and by which Respondent permanently waived his right to apply for any New York State teaching, administrative or other school related certification at any future date. [Stipulation approved February 14, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Barbara A. Safe (Agent)	9562 Main Street Clarence, NY 14031	\$1,500 fine
Respondent's appointments were terminated for cause by an insurer for engaging in falsification/misrating of automobile insurance policies. [Stipulation approved April 14, 2022.]		

Region: Mid-Island

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Richard A. Rossi Insurance Agency Inc. (Agent, Broker and Life Broker)	204 Medford Avenue Patchogue, NY 11772	\$4,500 fine
Richard A. Rossi (Agent, Broker and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Eric Erwin Noeldechen (Broker, Life Broker and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents violated Section 2119 of the Insurance Law in that they collected a service fee from an insured without obtaining from the insured a signed memorandum specifying the amount of the service fee. Additionally, Respondents commingled insurance premium fiduciary funds with business operating expense funds. [Stipulation approved March 23, 2022.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Abraham K. Spann (Agent, Broker and Life Broker)	146 N Arizona Road West Babylon, NY 11704	\$1,000 fine
<p>Respondent failed to forward to an insured a Notice of Non-Renewal that Respondent received from the insurer regarding the aforementioned insured's policy. [Stipulation approved April 7, 2022.]</p>		

Region: Nassau

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
JRD Insurance Agency Inc. (Broker)	1 Jefferson Avenue Rockville Centre, NY 11570	\$2,500 fine
Joseph R. DeCriscio (Agent, Broker, Life Broker and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondent Joseph R. DeCriscio's appointments were terminated for cause by an insurer, Allstate, for, in connection with automobile insurance policies, falsification of information and documentation relating to customers' prior insurance coverage. Additionally, Respondents failed to disclose in Respondent JRD Insurance Agency Inc.'s original application for a broker's license that Respondent Joseph R. DeCriscio's appointments were terminated for cause by Allstate as aforesaid. [Stipulation approved February 28, 2022.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Interstate Adjusters Inc. (Public Adjuster)	500 Old Country Road, Suite 106 Garden City, NY 11530	\$45,000 fine
Jarrod M. Fischer (Public Adjuster and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Eric C. Wahl (Public Adjuster and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents, during the approximate period January 1, 2021 to September 17, 2021, acted as public adjusters in the name of Respondent Interstate Adjusters Inc. in the State of New York while Respondent Interstate Adjusters Inc. had no license issued and in force pursuant to the provisions of the Insurance Law. Additionally, Respondents failed to disclose in Respondent Interstate Adjusters Inc.'s relicensing application for a public adjuster's license that Respondent Interstate Adjusters Inc. acted as a public adjuster in the State of New York after its license to act as a public adjuster expired on December 31, 2020. [Stipulation approved February 1, 2022.]</p>		

Region: New York

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jordan Ross Helfgott (Agent)	420 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10170	\$1,500 fine
<p>Respondent, while acting as an agent for an insurer, signed the names of the policy owner and the proposed insured on a life insurance application, in violation of the insurer's company policy. [Stipulation approved February 28, 2022.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jordan Insurance Agency Inc. (Agent and Broker)	6 Tiemann Place New York, NY 10027	\$1,000 fine
Esther Jordan (Agent, Broker, and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents failed to supervise an employee who ordered a consumer's credit report without obtaining the consumer's authorization. Additionally, Respondents violated Regulation 29 (11 NYCRR § 20.3) in that they failed to appropriately identify their premium bank account. [Stipulation approved April 7, 2022.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Andrea Rodriguez (Agent)	1157 Intervale Avenue Bronx, NY 10459	\$2,500 fine
Respondent's producer appointment was terminated for cause by an insurer for submitting improper information on insurance applications. Additionally, Respondent failed to disclose the aforementioned termination in her relicensing applications for an agent's license. [Stipulation approved April 7, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Wright Risk Management Company LLC (Agent, Broker, Independent Adjuster and General Consultant)	900 Stewart Avenue, Suite 600 Garden City, NY 11030	\$375,000 fine
Respondent, during the approximate period November 2007 to May 2019, allowed eight unlicensed employees to act as insurance adjusters in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved December 22, 2021.]		

Region: Rochester

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jenelle M. Ademovic (Agent and Broker)	28 Starflower Drive West Henrietta, NY 14586	Licenses Revoked
Respondent, through the agent portal in an insurer's computer system, manipulated the pay plans for her own personal insurance policies in the insurer's computer system, and thereby avoided paying insurance premiums for her policies for a period of 24 months. [Stipulation approved April 7, 2022.]		

Region: Syracuse

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Carol A. Zenzel (Title Insurance Agent)	6320 Fly Rd. East Syracuse, NY 13057	\$3,200 fine
Respondent acted as an insurance producer 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 25, 2022.]		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Avanti Destinations Inc. (Agent)	111 SW Columbia Street, Suite 1200 Portland, OR 97201	\$13,050 fine
<p>Respondent sold travel insurance covering accident and sickness medical expense in the State of New York after Respondent's agent's license pursuant to Section 2103(a) of the Insurance Law expired, and Respondent sold travel insurance covering baggage and personal effects in the State of New York while Respondent had no sublicensee for its agent's license pursuant to Section 2103(b) of the Insurance Law. Respondent violated Section 2114 of the Insurance Law in that it paid compensation to unlicensed individuals for selling travel insurance covering accident and sickness medical expense in the State of New York, and Respondent violated Section 2115 of the Insurance Law in that it paid compensation to unlicensed individuals for selling travel insurance covering baggage and personal effects in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved December 21, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
eFinancial Term Services LLC (Agent)	13810 SE Eastgate Way Bellevue, WA 98005	\$10,000 fine
Michael K. Bowcock (Agent and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents allowed unlicensed employees to act as insurance producers in the State of New York, and Respondents failed to supervise an employee who provided incorrect information to an individual who inquired about insurance. Respondents violated Section 2114 of the Insurance Law in that they paid compensation to the aforementioned unlicensed employees for selling insurance policies in the State of New York, and Respondents violated Section 2122(b) of the Insurance Law in that they utilized insurance companies' logos on their website without specifying the full name of each insurance company and the name of the city, town or village in which each insurance company has its principal office in the United States. Respondent eFinancial Term Services LLC used an unlicensed name to conduct business as an insurance producer in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved November 24, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Jacob Mark Burns (Agent)	2905 Magnolia Avenue Long Beach, CA 90806	License Revoked
Respondent changed his residence and business addresses in or about March 2020 and failed to notify the Department within thirty days of the change. Additionally, Respondent failed to timely respond to Departmental investigatory letters, and thereby hampered and impeded the Department's investigation regarding Respondent's license application. [Stipulation approved January 26, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Morgan Fournier (Agent)	126 Southfork Terrace Hot Springs, AR 71901	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was convicted of misdemeanors in Garland County, Arkansas, on or about May 22, 2014, April 10, 2019, June 16, 2020 and May 27, 2021. Additionally, Respondent failed to timely respond to a Departmental investigatory letter, and thereby hampered and impeded the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved March 10, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Juan Michael Gil (Agent)	15220 NW 6th Ct Pembroke Pines, FL 33028	License Revoked
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of each matter that Respondent was the subject of administrative actions taken by the Arizona Department of Insurance, the South Dakota Division of Insurance, the North Carolina Department of Insurance and the Indiana Department of Insurance. Additionally, Respondent failed to disclose in his relicensing application for an agent's license that he was the subject of the aforementioned administrative action taken by the Arizona Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved January 6, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Todd Michael Jarman (Agent)	5264 N Idaho Rd Apache Junction, AZ 85119	\$1,000 fine
Respondent submitted to an insurer an incorrect address for a member and the member's mother in connection with the enrollment of the member and the mother into a Medicare plan. [Stipulation approved April 7, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Shalonda Little (Agent)	7181 Hiawassee Oak Dr Orlando, FL 32818	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was fined by the Florida Department of Financial Services, that her insurance license was revoked by the Utah Insurance Department, and that her application for a license was denied by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. [Stipulation approved April 25, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Novum Underwriting Agency LLC (Agent, Broker, and Excess Line Broker)	260 Lena Drive Aurora, OH 44202	\$750 fine
Adam Longo (Agent, Broker, Excess Line Broker, and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents failed to disclose in Respondent Novum Underwriting Agency LLC's original application for an excess line broker's license that Respondent Adam Longo was the subject of administrative action taken by the Kansas Insurance Department. [Stipulation approved March 8, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Erik E. Lundy (Agent)	840 S Van Dyke Rd Bad Axe, MI 48413	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that he was found liable in a National Association of Securities Dealers arbitration proceeding. [Stipulation approved February 28, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Catalina S. Ponton (Agent and Life Broker)	6243 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19141	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that at the time of the submission of said application, Respondent had a criminal case pending in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. [Stipulation approved February 28, 2022.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
<p>Thorson Specialty Insurance Services Inc. (Agent, Broker and Excess Line Broker)</p> <p>David C. Thorson (Sublicensee)</p>	<p>29899 Agoura Road Agoura Hills, CA 91301</p> <p>Same as above</p>	<p>\$5,000 fine</p>
<p>Respondents violated Section 2324(a) of the Insurance Law by utilizing advertisements that offered a ten percent discount for insurance coverage, and by giving premium rebates to insureds based upon the aforementioned ten percent discount. Respondents violated Section 2122(a)(1) of the Insurance Law by utilizing a communication on their website that purported to make known the financial condition of insurers and that failed to conform with the requirements of Section 1313 of the Insurance Law. [Stipulation approved November 24, 2021.]</p>		