

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: November 30, 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
Eugene A. Bartow Insurance Agency (Agent and Broker)	62 South Second Street, Deer Park, NY 11729	\$2,250 fine
Jason Bartow (Agent, Broker, and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents issued certificates of insurance which contained incorrect and misleading information. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Frederick P. Schoppmann (Independent Adjuster)	c/o Bob & Fred Collision 309 Broadway Bethpage, NY 11714	\$500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the initial pretrial hearing date that he was the subject of a criminal prosecution that resulted in the Respondent being convicted, upon a plea of guilty, of a misdemeanor. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

Region: Nassau

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Marlon Edilberto Bravo (Agent)	49 E Pine Street Long Beach, NY 11561	\$3,500 fine
Respondent, while employed as an agent for an insurer, falsified automobile insurance applications that he submitted to an insurer. Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent's insurance agent license was revoked by the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Washington and that his producer license was revoked by the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Keats Insurance Agencies Inc. (Agent)	485 Jericho Turnpike Mineola, NY 11501	\$2,000 fine
Ronald F. Keats (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents issued to a trailer sales and rental company certificates of insurance that certified that Respondents' client had physical damage insurance coverage in effect for a trailer, when in fact the client had no physical damage coverage in effect for the trailer. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

Region: New York

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Sabbirul I. Khan (Agent, Broker, and Life Broker)	10356 96th Street Ozone Park, NY 11417	\$1,500 fine
Respondent submitted to an insurer applications for auto insurance on which Respondent included drivers who were not legitimate risks. [Stipulation approved September 11, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Sol Klein P.A. Inc. (Public Adjuster)	1526 51 st Street Brooklyn, NY 11219	\$58,000 fine
Sol Klein (Public Adjuster and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents transacted insurance business in an unlicensed agency name "Sol Klein P.A. Inc". Respondent Sol Klein P.A. Inc. acted as an adjuster in the State of New York without the benefit of a license. Respondents failed to disclose in Respondent Sol Klein P.A. Inc.'s relicensing application to act as a public adjuster that Respondents engaged in the business of insurance without the benefit of a license as stated above. Respondents also utilized compensation agreements in connection with services rendered as a public adjuster that did not contain the time of the initial contact with the insured. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]</p>		

Region: Westchester

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Steve O. Asvazadourian (Agent and Broker)	c/o Dorian Agency Ltd. 357 Elwood Avenue Hawthorne, NY 10532	Licenses Revoked
<p>Respondent was convicted of Insurance Fraud in the second Degree, a class C felony, Scheme to Defraud, a class E felony and Fraudulent Practice, a class E felony; and Respondent failed to notify the Superintendent within 30 days of the initial pretrial hearing date of a criminal prosecution that resulted in the aforementioned conviction. [Stipulation approved October 8, 2020.]</p>		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Sigma Financial Corporation (Agent, Broker and Sublicensee)	300 Parkland Plaza Ann Arbor, MI 48103	\$2,500 fine
Jennifer L. Bacarella (Agent and Broker)	Same as above	
<p>Respondent failed to disclose on Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation's original application to act as a life broker that Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation and Jerome Rydell, the owner and President of Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation, were named in National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD") and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") arbitration proceedings involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, fraud or misrepresentation, and that Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation and Mr. Rydell were defendants in civil litigations involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, or misrepresentation, and that Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation was fined by NASD/FINRA, State Insurance Regulators and a State Security Regulator. Respondent Sigma Financial Corporation violated an order of the superintendent in that it violated the conditions of its August 27, 2009 stipulation with the Department by not taking the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of violations of Section 2110(a)(2) of the Insurance Law. [Stipulation approved October 8, 2020.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Tristar Risk Enterprise Management Inc. (Independent Adjuster)	2540 Route 103 Cranbury, NJ 08512	\$82,500 fine
Matthew T. Craig (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents acted as insurance adjusters in the name of Respondent Tristar Risk Enterprise Management Inc. in the State of New York while Respondent Tristar Risk Enterprise Management Inc. had no license issued and in force pursuant to the provisions of the Insurance Law. [Stipulation approved September 18, 2020.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Kevin Curry (Agent – License Pending)	3910 North 56 th Avenue Hollywood, FL 33021	\$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 Florida Department of Financial Services. [Stipulation approved October 8, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Gregory William Geczi (Agent)	25239 Padre Lane Punta Gorda, FL 33983	License Revoked
Respondent used fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices in that he provided untrue information in an electronic funds transfer enrollment form and other forms, and thereby obtained from Anthem Health Plans of Maine Inc. \$74,053.82 that was intended for Respondent's employer, American Senior Benefits. Respondent improperly withheld, misappropriated or converted said \$74,053.82. Respondent also had insurance producer licenses revoked by the Maine Bureau of Insurance and by the Florida Department of Financial Services. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Julie A. Hackett (Agent and Broker)	c/o Triumph Marketing LLC P.O. Box 461087 Glendale, CO 80246	\$2,000 fine
Respondent acted as a managing broker on the sale of policies in the state of New York without the benefit of a license. [Stipulation approved September 25, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
U N I Worldwide Financial Marketing Inc. (Agent)	3805 Crestwood Parkway, Suite 260 Duluth, GA 30096	\$500 fine
Jin H. Shin (Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent U N I Worldwide Financial Marketing Inc. was the subject of administrative action taken by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Siracusa Risk Management LLC (Broker – License Pending)	1515 South Federal Highway Boca Raton, FL 33432	\$750 fine
Jason M. Siracusa (Proposed Sublicensee)	Same as above	
Respondents failed to disclose on Respondent Siracusa Risk Management LLC's original application to act as a broker that Respondent Jason M. Siracusa, individually and as sublicensee of Transportation Resources & Assurance Agency Corp., entered into a stipulation with the Department, wherein a fine in the amount of \$29,250.00 was assessed. [Stipulation approved September 25, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Patrice Nicole Smith-Pressley (Agent and Broker)	P.O. Box 5943 Pasadena, TX 77508	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose on her original application to act as a life broker as well as on her relicensing application to act as an agent that she was convicted of a felony and was sentenced to five years' probation and \$155.00 in court fees. [Stipulation approved September 25, 2020.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Toland Ellis Walton (Agent- relicensing application pending)	1415 Remington Court Orange Park, FL 32065	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an agent's license that Respondent was convicted of a misdemeanor. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2020.]		