

New York State Department of Financial Services

ISSUED: November 30, 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.

STIPULATIONS/CONSENT ORDERS

Region: Albany

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Gary C. Scofield (Agent)	3 Lancaster Ct. Ballston Lake, NY 12019	\$750 fine
Respondent violated Section 2123 of the Insurance Law and Regulation 60 (11 NYCRR § 51.5) in that Respondent, in connection with an application for life insurance, submitted to the insurer a Definition of Replacement that failed to disclose that an existing annuity contract would be partially surrendered as part of the proposed insured's purchase of the new life insurance policy. [Stipulation approved September 8, 2021.]		

Region: Nassau

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Alexander B. Soltanian (Agent, Title Agent, Broker, Life Broker, Excess Line Broker, Life Settlement Broker, Life Consultant, and General Consultant)	44 Pool Drive Roslyn, NY 11576	\$1,500 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the initial pretrial hearing date that he was the subject of a criminal prosecution. Additionally, Respondent failed to timely respond to Departmental investigatory letters, and thereby hampered and impeded the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved September 8, 2021.]		

Region: New York

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Talia Bercovitch-Adika (Agent)	42 Broadway New York, NY 10004	\$7,000 fine
Respondent conducted insurance business using the name TY Health Insurance Brokerage, a name that had not been previously approved by the Superintendent. Respondent commingled premium funds received as an insurance agent with her own funds, and deposited premium funds received as an insurance agent into a bank account that was not identified as a "premium account" or otherwise appropriately identified. [Stipulation approved October 13, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Peter Castillo (Broker)	1322 Jerome Avenue Bronx, NY 10452	\$12,000 fine
Respondent used an unlicensed name in conducting business as an insurance producer in the State of New York, and commingled insurance premium fiduciary funds with business operating expense funds. Additionally, Respondent failed to appropriately identify his premium bank account, and Respondent's premium bank account had insufficient funds to cover one check payment transaction and two electronic withdrawal payment transactions. [Stipulation approved October 20, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Nia Watson-Hassanali (Agent)	1280 Croton Loop Brooklyn, NY 11239	License Revoked
Respondent's appointments were terminated for cause by Allstate Insurance Company for falsifying customers' information. Additionally, Respondent failed to timely respond to Departmental investigatory letters, and thereby hampered and impeded the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved September 17, 2021.]		

Region: Mid-Island

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Carl Harris Mooney (Agent)	50 Johnson Avenue Sayville, NY 11782	License Revoked
Respondent, in connection with an application submitted to the Department for a license to act as agent, submitted documents to the Department indicating that he had taken the prerequisite licensing course and had passed the prerequisite examination, when in fact he had not taken the course or passed the examination. [Stipulation approved October 7, 2021.]		

Region: Out of State

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Crystal T. Caldwell (Agent)	617 Antigua Road Jacksonville, FL 32216	\$750 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in her original application for an agent's license that she was the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding in United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York (Brooklyn). [Stipulation approved September 30, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Robert Holland (Agent)	3213 Beachcomber El Paso, TX 79936	License Revoked
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for a license to act as an agent that he had been convicted of a felony in the 120th District Court of El Paso County, State of Texas. Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter that the Louisiana Department of Insurance imposed a fine on him. [Stipulation approved October 4, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Kenneth Mahoney (Agent)	135 Chestnut Ridge Road Montvale, NJ 07654	\$3,000 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in four renewal applications for an agent's license that the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") fined Respondent and suspended Respondent from association with any member of FINRA, in any capacity, for a period of six months. [Stipulation approved September 30, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
OTM Specialists LLC (Agent)	28825 IH-10W Boerne, TX 78006	\$2,250 fine
William Duncan Parra (Proposed Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondent OTM Specialists LLC failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of each matter that Respondent OTM Specialists LLC was the subject of administrative actions taken by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Indiana Department of Insurance and the South Dakota Division of Insurance. Respondents failed to disclose in Respondent OTM Specialists LLC's supplemental application for an agent's license that Respondent OTM Specialists LLC was the subject of the aforementioned administrative actions taken by the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Indiana Department of Insurance and the South Dakota Division of Insurance. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Marcus Adam Rivera (Independent Adjuster)	1932 E. 7th Ave Mesa, AZ 85204	\$750 fine
<p>Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an independent adjuster's license that he was the subject of an administrative action taken by the Wyoming Insurance Department in 2013. [Stipulation approved September 30, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Sedgwick Claims Management Services Inc. (Independent Adjuster)	8125 Sedgwick Way Memphis, TN 38125	\$10,500 fine
Henry F. Salmaggi (Independent Adjuster and Sublicensee)	Same as above	
<p>Respondents allowed an unlicensed employee to act as an insurance adjuster in the State of New York. [Stipulation approved October 5, 2021.]</p>		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Selene Closing Services LLC (Title Insurance Agent)	12276 San Jose Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32223	\$2,500 fine
Respondent used an unlicensed name in conducting business as an insurance producer in the State of New York. Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within 30 days of the final disposition of the matter that Respondent was the subject of an administrative action taken by the Kansas Insurance Department. [Stipulation approved October 13, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Richard Simon (Title Agent)	6900 Tavistock Lakes Blvd Suite 400 Orlando, FL 32832	\$2,000 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for a title agent's license that he was the subject of administrative actions taken by the Florida Department of Financial Services and the Louisiana Department of Insurance; and he failed to timely respond to the Department's investigatory letters, thereby hampering and impeding the Department's investigation. [Stipulation approved October 13, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Gary Wasserman (Agent, Broker, and Excess Line Broker)	Wexler Ins Agency Inc. 1120 Ponce De Leon Blvd Coral Gables, Florida 33134	\$3,500 fine
Respondent failed to disclose in his original application for an excess line broker's license that Respondent was the subject of administrative actions taken by the Kansas Insurance Department, the New York Insurance Department, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the South Dakota Division of Insurance, the Florida Department of Financial Services and the California Department of Insurance. [Stipulation approved September 30, 2021.]		

LICENSEE	ADDRESS	PENALTY
Samantha Justine Woods-Battle (Agent)	724 6th Street NE Paris, TX 75460	\$1,000 fine
Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the initial pretrial hearing date that she was the subject of a criminal prosecution in Texas. Additionally, Respondent failed to report to the Superintendent within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter that she was the subject of an administrative action taken by the Connecticut Insurance Department. [Stipulation approved September 30, 2021.]		