

# BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

| IN THE MATTER OF:     | ) |                 |  |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| CURTIS BRITTON PARENT | ) | TID No.: 14-153 |  |
|                       |   |                 |  |

#### **CONSENT ORDER**

The Tennessee Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce and Insurance ("Division") and Curtis Britton Parent ("Respondent") hereby stipulate and agree to the entry of this Consent Order, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance ("Commissioner") as follows:

## **GENERAL STIPULATIONS**

- 1. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is subject to the Commissioner's acceptance and has no force and effect until such acceptance is evidenced by the entry of an order by the Commissioner.
- 2. This Consent Order is executed by the Respondent for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause. Furthermore, should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Commissioner, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order by the Commissioner shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Commissioner from further participation or resolution of these proceedings.
- 3. Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude additional proceedings by the Commissioner against Respondent for acts or omissions not

specifically addressed in this Consent Order or for facts and/or omissions that do not arise from the facts or transactions herein addressed.

- 4. Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude proceedings by state government representatives, other than the Commissioner for violations of the law addressed specifically in this Consent Order, against the Respondent for violations of the law under statutes, rules, or regulations of the State of Tennessee, which may arise out of the facts, acts, or omissions contained in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated herein, or which may arise as a result of the execution of this Consent Order by the Respondent.
- 5. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps and all rights to seek judicial review or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Order, the stipulations and imposition of discipline expressly contained herein, and the consideration and entry of said Consent Order by the Commissioner.
- 6. Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order, when entered, will constitute a public document for purposes of any applicable statutes governing access by the public to government records.
- 7. Respondent agrees that facsimiles of his respective signature on this Consent Order—scanned in portable document format (PDF) or similar format—returned by electronic means, if accepted by the Division, is effective as an original signature and that the Consent Order may be issued with such a facsimile signature.

## **AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION**

8. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Tennessee Insurance Law ("Law"), Title 56 of the Tennessee Code Annotated ("Tenn. Code Ann."),

specifically, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 56-1-101, 56-1-202, and 56-6-112. The Law places on the Commissioner the responsibility of the administration of its provisions.

#### **PARTIES**

- 9. The Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner administers the Law and is authorized to bring this action for the protection of the public.
- 10. Respondent is a Texas resident with a current address of 105 Angus Ct., Itasca, TX 76055.
  - 11. Respondent's addresses of record are:
    - a. 105 Angus Ct., Dallas, TX 75234;
    - b. 105 Angus Ct., Itasca, TX 76055; and
    - c. 1100 West 7th St. #820, Ft. Worth, TX 76102,

which are presently on file with the Division.

12. Respondent is a Tennessee insurance producer having been granted license number 0987590, which expires on September 30, 2016.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 13. On or about May 21, 2001, in the State of South Carolina, Respondent was convicted of a felony offense, bribery of an official, and a misdemeanor offense, indecent exposure, in violation of 16-9-210 and 16-15-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.
- 14. On or about November 14, 2013, Respondent's insurance license and licensing rights were revoked by the Insurance Commissioner of California, Dave Jones, pursuant to California Insurance Code Section 1669(a).
- 15. Respondent never notified Tennessee's Commissioner of his convictions and loss of licensure as stated in paragraphs thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) of this Consent Order until the

Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Fraud Investigations Unit, became aware of Respondent's convictions and California license revocation on or about April 15, 2014.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 16. At all times relevant hereto, Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112(a) (2011) has provided that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license issued under Title 56, Chapter 6, Part 1, or issue a civil penalty for the following reasons:
  - (2) Violating any law, rule, regulation, subpoena or order of the commissioner or of another state's commissioner;
  - (6) Having been convicted of a felony; [and]

. . .

. . .

- (9) Having an insurance producer license, or its equivalent, denied, suspended or revoked in any other state . . .
- 17. At all times relevant hereto, Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-119(a) has provided that:

A producer shall report to the commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another jurisdiction or by another governmental agency in this state within thirty (30) days of the final disposition of the matter. This report shall include a copy of any order entered or other relevant legal documents.

- 18. For each violation occurring prior to July 1, 2011, Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-2-305 (2008) states in pertinent part:
  - (a) If ... the commissioner finds that any insurer, person, or entity required to be licensed, permitted or authorized by the division of insurance has violated any statute, rule, or order, the commissioner may, at the commissioner's discretion, order:
    - (1) The person to cease and desist from engaging in the act or practice giving rise to the violation;
    - (2) Payment of a monetary penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation, but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of one hundred thousand

dollars (\$100,000), unless the insurer, person or entity knowingly violates a statute, rule or order, in which case the penalty shall not be more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each violation, not to exceed an aggregate penalty of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). This subsection (a)(2) shall not apply where a statute or rule specifically provides for other civil penalties for the violation. For purposes of this subsection (a)(2), each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate violation; and

- (3) The suspension or revocation of the insurer's, person's, or entity's license.
- (b) In determining the amount of penalty to assess under this section, or in determining whether the violation was a knowing violation for the purpose of subdivision (a)(2), the commissioner shall consider any evidence relative to the following criteria:
  - (1) Whether the insurer, person, or entity could reasonably have interpreted its actions to be in compliance with the obligations required by a statute, rule or order;
  - (2) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;
  - (3) Whether the amount imposed would put the violator in a hazardous financial condition; <sup>1</sup>
  - (4) The circumstances leading to the violation;
  - (5) The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public;
  - (6) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of noncompliance;
  - (7) The interest of the public; and
  - (8) The insurer's, person's, or entity's efforts to cure the violation.
- 19. For each violation occurring after July 1, 2011, Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112 (2011), states in pertinent part:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Hazardous financial condition" is an insurance industry term which refers to the financial condition of an insurance company, and the term is inapplicable to an individual insurance producer's economic affairs. (see generally, Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0780-1-78-.03).

- (e) The commissioner shall retain the authority to enforce this part and impose any penalty or remedy authorized by this part and this title against any person who is under investigation for or charged with a violation of this part or this title, even if the person's license has been surrendered or has lapsed by operation of law.
- (g) If . . . the commissioner finds that any person required to be licensed, permitted, or authorized by the division of insurance pursuant to this chapter has violated any statute, rule or order, the commissioner may, at the commissioner's discretion, order:
  - (1) The person to cease and desist from engaging in the act or practice giving rise to the violation;
  - (2) Payment of a monetary penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation, but not to exceed an aggregate penalty of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). This subsection (g)(2) shall not apply where a statute or rule specifically provides for other civil penalties for the violation. For purposes of this subdivision (g)(2), each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate violation; and
  - (3) The suspension or revocation of the person's license.
- (h) In determining the amount of penalty to assess under this section, the commissioner shall consider:
  - (1) Whether the person could reasonably have interpreted such person's actions to be in compliance with the obligations required by a statute, rule or order;
  - (2) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;
  - (3) The circumstances leading to the violation;
  - (4) The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public;
  - (5) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of noncompliance;
  - (6) The interest of the public; and
  - (7) The person's efforts to cure the violation.

- 20. As enumerated in the Findings of Fact above and the Conclusions of Law contained herein, Respondent violated Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 56-6-112(a)(2), (a)(6) and (a)(9).
- 21. The Findings of Fact contained herein constitute grounds for a Consent Order revoking Respondent's Insurance Producer license in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112(g)(3). Such facts also provide grounds for an order imposing civil penalties against Respondent pursuant to applicable statutes stated in the Conclusions of Law contained herein.

## <u>ORDER</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing and Respondent's waiver of his rights to a hearing and appeal under the Law and Tennessee's Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-101 et. seq., and the admission by Respondent of the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner finds that Respondent admits to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, has agreed to the entry of this Consent Order, and that this Consent Order is appropriate, in the best interest of the public, and necessary for the protection of the public.

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112 (2011) that:

- 1. The Insurance Producer license, numbered 0987590, issued to Respondent, Curtis Britton Parent, is hereby **VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED**, beginning immediately upon final execution of this agreed Consent Order; and
- 2. Respondent shall not, while without a license, conduct further business for which an insurance license is required under the Law.
- 3. IT IS FURTHERED ORDERED that all persons in any way assisting, aiding, or helping Curtis Britton Parent in any of the aforementioned violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112, shall CEASE AND DESIST from all such activities in violation of the Law.

IT IS ORDERED that this Consent Order represents the complete and final resolution and discharge of administrative remedies available to the Commissioner under Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-6-112 against Respondent for violations of the Law arising out of the Findings of Fact set forth in Paragraphs 13 through 15 above. However, this Consent Order shall in no way preclude a third party or other authority from pursuing civil remedies or criminal action against Respondent which may otherwise be available.

This Consent Order is in the best interest of both the public and the parties and represents a compromise and settlement of the controversy between the parties. By his signature affixed below, Respondent, Curtis Britton Parent, states that he has: (1) freely agreed to the entry of this Consent Order; (2) had the opportunity to effectively consult with legal counsel in this matter; (3) reviewed the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein; and (4) waived his right to a hearing on the matters underlying this Consent Order. Respondent further states that no threats or promises of any kind have been made by the Commissioner, the Division, or any agent or representative thereof with regard to this Consent Order.

By signing this Consent Order, the parties affirm their agreement to be bound by the terms of this Consent Order and confirm that no promises or offers relating to the circumstances described herein, other than the terms of the settlement set forth in this Consent Order, are binding upon them.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

ENTERED this the 8th day of January, 2015.

Julie Mix McPeak, Commissioner

Department of Commerce and Insurance

## APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

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CSPL

Curtis Britton Parent 105 Angus Ct. Itasca, TX 76055

and

P.O. Box 118989 Carrollton, TX 75011 Chlora Lindley-Myers

Deputy Commissioner

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