

DEC 21 2023

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
STATE OF NEBRASKA

FILED

STATE OF NEBRASKA)	
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,)	CONSENT ORDER
)	
PETITIONER,)	
)	
VS.)	
)	
ARMANDO VARGAS)	CAUSE NO. A-2350
(NAIC Producer #16863207),)	
)	
RESPONDENT.)	

In order to resolve this matter, the Nebraska Department of Insurance (“Petitioner”), by and through its attorney, Cheryl Wolff, and Armando Vargas (NAIC Producer #16863207) (“Respondent”), mutually stipulate and agree as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. Petitioner has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Respondent pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 44.101.01, and 44-4047 to 44-4067.
2. Respondent has been licensed as a resident insurance producer under the laws of Nebraska at all times material hereto.

STIPULATIONS OF FACT

1. Petitioner initiated this administrative proceeding after completing an investigation of the Respondent’s conduct after receiving a notice of termination for cause from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. At that time, the Respondent was verbally notified by the Petitioner that an administrative action on his license would be opened regarding the alleged violations of the Insurance Producer’s Licensing Act.

2. Respondent is alleged to have violated Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-4059 (1) (h) using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere. and 44-1524 (2) has been committed with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice to engage in that type of conduct, as follows:

a. On October 16, 2023, the Petitioner received a Notice of Termination for Cause from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company due to fraud by the Respondent.

b. On October 16, the Petitioner sent the Respondent a letter requesting he respond to the allegations made by Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company and explain his actions.

c. On October 23, 2023, Respondent sent the Petitioner a response in which he admitted to affixing clients' electronic signatures on forms such as low milage discounts and underwriting level changes without properly documenting the client's authorization to affix an electronic signature and without explaining their signatures were required on a form in order to qualify for a lower premium. He stated that clients gave consent or were notified of the changes being made on their policies even if they did not know of the signature. He denied knowing affixing electronic signatures in such a manner is considered forgery. He now recognizes his affixing electronic signatures was wrong.

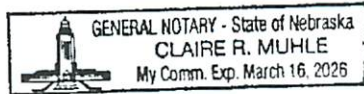
c. Respondent affixed electronic signatures to over 300 documents during his employment at Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

3. Respondent admits the allegations in Paragraph 2.

4. Respondent was informed of his right to a public hearing. Respondent waives that right and enters into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily. Respondent understands and acknowledges that by waiving his right to a public hearing, Respondent also waives his right to confrontation of witnesses, production of evidence, and judicial review.

State of Nebraska)
County of Sarpy) ss.

On this 20th day of December, 2023, Armando Vargas, personally appeared before me and read this Consent Order, executed the same, and acknowledged the same to be his voluntary act and deed.



Claire R. Muhle
Notary Public

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Consent Order is adopted as the Final Order of the Nebraska Department of Insurance in the matter of State of Nebraska Department of Insurance vs. Armando Vargas (NAIC Producer #16863207), Cause No. A-2350.

STATE OF NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Eric Dunning
Director of Insurance

12/21/23

Date

20

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


Respondent's conduct as alleged above constitutes violations of Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-4059 (1) (h) and 44-1524 (2), and Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §44-4059.

CONSENT ORDER

It is therefore Ordered by the Director of Insurance and agreed by Respondent that:

1. Respondent agrees to pay an administrative penalty in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) in order to fully resolve this matter and avoid further litigation.
2. Payment must be made within 30 days after this order is signed. Respondent agrees that if he fails to pay the administrative penalty, Respondent's insurance producer's license shall be suspended until such a time as the penalty is paid. The Nebraska Department of Insurance shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purpose of enabling Respondent or the Department of Insurance to make application for such orders as may be necessary.

In witness of their intention to be bound by this Consent Order, each party has executed this document by subscribing their signatures below.


Cheryl Wolff, #22990
Attorney for Petitioner
1526 "K" Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68501-2089
(402) 471-4607

12/21/2023
Date


Armando Vargas
Respondent

12/20/23
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Consent Order was served upon Respondent by mailing a copy to his registered business, mailing, and residential address at, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by regular U.S. mail, and via email to, on this 21st day of December, 2023.

Shelly Storie