M. GALE LEMMON #4363
Assistant Attorney General
MARK L. SHURTLEFF #4666
Attorney General
Attorneys for Utah Insurance Department
160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor
P.O. Box 140874

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0874

Telephone: 801.366.0375

# BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF UTAH

# **COMPLAINANT:**

UTAH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

## **RESPONDENT:**

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 6000 Westown Parkway West Des Moines, IA 50266 Utah Company Id. No. 1964

## STIPULATION AND ORDER

Docket No. 12011-209 LF

Enf. Case No. 2949

#### **STIPULATION**

- 1. Respondent, American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company, is an insurer domiciled in Iowa and is authorized to do business in the State of Utah, Utah Company Identification No. 1964 and NAIC ID 92738.
- 2. Respondent stipulates with the Complainant, Utah Insurance Department, as follows:
  - a. If a hearing were held, witnesses called by the Complainant could offer and introduce evidence that would support the Findings of Fact herein;

- b. Respondent admits the Findings of Fact and Conclusions made therefrom;
- c. Respondent stipulates to the summary entry of the Order herein which shall be in lieu of other administrative proceedings by Complainant in this matter; and
- d. Respondent and Complainant have negotiated the terms of the Order entered herein and Respondent agrees to its entry and further agrees to be bound by all its terms.
- 3. Respondent is aware of its right to a hearing at which it may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Respondent has irrevocably waived its right to such hearing and to any appeal related thereto.
- 4. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the State of Utah Insurance Commissioner as to all matters herein.
- 5. Respondent is acting herein free from any duress or coercion of any kind or nature, having been advised fully as to its rights set forth herein.
- 6. Respondent acknowledges that the issuance of this Order by the Commissioner is solely for purpose of disposition of the matter entitled herein.

DATED this 27th day of September, 2011.

MERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT Life

INSURANCE COPANY

Marla G. Lacey, Vice President and Assoc.

General Counsel

UTAH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

M. Gale Lemmon, Assistant Attorney General

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation and information in the file, the Presiding Officer makes the following Findings of Fact:

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. On June 29, 2010, while resolving a consumer complaint, a Department Life Insurance Consumer Service Analyst discovered that the form issued by Respondent for its Retirement Gold Contract was not compliant with the Utah Standard Nonforfeiture Law for annuities. An investigation followed.
- 2. On October 27, 2010, the Respondent provided the Department with a list of all policy owners age 56 and older in Utah who were sold the Retirement Gold product during the period of March 17, 2009, through January 5, 2010.
- 3. On November 9, 2010, Respondent filed a Bonus Vesting Percentage Adjustment Endorsement with the Department to birng the contract into compliance with Utah's Standard Nonforfeiture Law.
- 4. On December 1, 2010, Respondent sent a cover letter and the endorsement to approximately 238 policy owners in order to bring existing contracts into compliance with the Utah Standard Nonforfeiture Law for annuities.
- 5. On July 20, 2011, the Department and Respondent agreed to an administrative forfeiture by Respondent in the amount of \$5,000.

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation and Findings of Fact, the Presiding Officer enters the following Conclusions of Law:

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Applicable Statutes & Rules:

- 1. Utah Code Ann. § 31A-22-409(10)(a)(ii)(B) states:
  - (10) (a) For the purpose of determining the benefits calculated under Subsections (8) and (9), the maturity date shall be considered to be:
  - (i) in the case of an annuity contract issued on or before May 5, 2002, under which an election may be made to have an annuity payment commence at an optional maturity date, the latest date for which an election is permitted by the contract, except that it may not be considered to be later than the later of:
  - (A) the anniversary of the contract next following the day on which the annuitant becomes 70 years of age; or
  - (B) the tenth anniversary of the contract; or
  - (ii) in the case of an annuity contract issued on or after May 6, 2002, the latest date permitted by the contract, except that it may not be considered to be later than the later of:
  - (A) the anniversary of the contract next following the day on which the annuitant becomes 70 years of age; or
  - (B) the tenth anniversary of the contract.
  - (b) In the case of an annuity contract issued on or after May 6, 2002:
  - (i) for a contract that provides cash surrender benefits, the cash surrender value on or past the maturity date shall be equal to the amount used to determine the annuity benefit payments; and
  - (ii) a surrender charge may not be imposed on or past maturity.
- 2. During the period of March 17, 2009 through January 5, 2010 Respondent was in violation of the above statute when it marketed and delivered insurance contracts that did not comply with the above provision.
- 3. An administrative forfeiture in the total amount of \$5,000.00 is appropriate under the circumstances of this matter.

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation, Findings and Conclusions, the Presiding Officer enters the following Order.

#### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Respondent, American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company, is assessed an administrative forfeiture in the amount of \$5,000. The forfeiture shall be paid to the Department within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order.

DATED this 29th day of Septentia, 2011.

NEAL T. GOOCH Insurance Commissioner

MARK E. KLEINFIELD

Administrative Law Judge Utah Insurance Department

State Office Building, Room 3110

Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Telephone: 801.538.3800

# **NOTIFICATION**

You are hereby notified that a failure to obey an Order of the Commissioner may subject you to further penalties, including forfeitures of up to \$5,000 per violation and the suspension or revocation of your license, and the filing of an action in district court, which may impose forfeitures of up to \$10,000 per day for continued violation.

You are further notified that other jurisdictions in which you may be licensed may require that you report this action to them.