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BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER FOR THE STATE OF UTAH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

UTAH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT,

Complainant,

V

BRIGHTON INSURANCE GROUP, License No. 6428, and JUDY BIGLER, License No. 33250, 8184 S Highland Drive, Ste C5 Sandy, Utah 84093

Respondents.

STIPULATION AND ORDER

Docket No. 2014-044 PC

End. Case No. 3469

Mark E. Kleinfield Administrative Law Judge

STIPULATION

Utah Insurance Department ("Department"), through its legal counsel, Gary D.

Josephson, Assistant Attorney General, and Brighton Insurance Group ("Respondent") hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Respondent, Brighton Insurance Group is an active Utah Resident Agency and Producer Organization License – No. 6428. Respondent, Judy Bigler, ("Bigler holds an active

Utah Resident Producer License – No. 33250.

- 2. The Department has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this administrative action.
- 3. Respondent acknowledges Notice of Agency Action pursuant to Utah Code Section 63g-4-210; acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order is part of an informal proceeding pursuant to Utah Code § 63g-4-202; and irrevocably waives the right to any hearing, review, or appeal concerning this matter.
- 4. Respondent has the right to be represented by legal counsel and waives this right by either having sought the advice of legal counsel or having voluntarily chosen not to do so.
- 5. Upon approval and signing by the parties, this Stipulation, along with the Findings and Fact and Conclusions of Law and the Order shall not be subject to any reconsideration, renegotiation, modification, hearing or agency review or appeal.
- 6. The parties hereby agree to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law presented below.
- 7. The issuance of the Order proposed below is solely for the purpose of disposing of the specific matter entitled herein.
- 8. The only promises, agreements and understandings that the parties have regarding this matter are contained in this Stipulation.
- 9. Respondent enters into this Stipulation, voluntarily, knowingly, and free from coercion of any kind.

- 10. A person signing this Stipulation on behalf of each named party hereby affirms that he/she represents the respective party and is authorized to sign and bind the respective party.
- 11. If the Order below is not signed by the Administrative law Judge, this Stipulation is void and of no effect.

Date 010514

Authorized Agent for Brighton Insurance Group

License #6428

Alana Thoma S (Printed name of signing agent)

Judy Bigler

6/13/14

Assistant Attorney General
Utah Insurance Department

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation and the Department file, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following Findings of Fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about August 28, 2012, Mr. Jonathan Fairbanks applied for automobile insurance with Respondent Brighton and paid a premium in the amount of \$138.80 to Bear River Mutual. The check was deposited into Respondent Brighton's trust account.

- 2. A Certificate of Insurance was issued to University of Utah Credit Union by a producer for Brighton.
- 3. Documents received from Bear River Mutual indicate they did not receive the premium for Mr. Fairbanks' automobile insurance policy until December 2, 2013 after a reported automobile accident claim was made by Mr. Fairbanks.
- 4. On or about January 15, 2013, Mr. Fairbanks purchased a new 2007 Honda
 Odyssey vehicle and added the vehicle to his existing policy, which was not in effect at the time.
 Nevertheless, the producer issued an insurance card with policy #C242314; however, according to the Accord certificate that was issued on January 17, 2013, the policy number should have been #165799. Neither of these policy numbers matched Mr. Fairbanks' policy number.
- 5. On or about November 8, 2013, Mr. Fairbanks was involved in an automobile accident. When Mr. Fairbanks called Respondent Brighton to report the accident, Respondent Bigler could not verify his policy.
- 6. Mr. Fairbanks then called Bear River Mutual who indicated to him that it had no record of either his homeowners or auto policies. Mr. Fairbanks was contacted by Bear River Mutual a few days later and was told his claim would be "on hold" pending an investigation.
- 7. Respondent Brighton worked with Bear River Mutual and eventually Mr. Fairbank's claim was paid.
 - 8. Respondents have agreed to a \$7,000.00 administrative forfeiture in this matter.

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation and Findings of Fact, the Administrative Law Judge enters the following Conclusions of Law:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The above actions of Respondents violated Utah Code § 31A-23a-412, which requires that records be accurate, thorough and organized.
- 2. The above actions of Respondents are a violation of Utah Code § 31A-23a-409; wherein, Respondents did not fulfill the fiduciary duties of a trustee with respect to monies to be forwarded to the insured or insurer.
- 3. The Above actions of Respondents are a violation of Utah Code § 31A-23a-410, in that it provides that if an insurer is obligated to pay a claim pursuant to that section, and that licensee or employee who received the premium failed to forward it, the licensee is obligated to the insurer for the entire unpaid premium due under the policy, together with reasonable expenses of suit and reasonable attorney fees.
- 4. An Administrative forfeiture in the amount of \$7,000.00 is appropriate in this matter.

ORDER

Based on the Stipulation, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law, Respondents, Brighton Insurance Group and Judy Bigler, are assessed an administrative forfeiture in the total amount of \$7,000.00 to be paid to the Department within thirty (30) days of the date of the

signing of this Order.

DATED this 16 day of Tone, 2014.

TODD E KISER UTAH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

MARK E. KLEINFIELD, ESQ.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Utah Department of Insurance

State Office Building, Room 3110

Salt Lake City, UT 84114 Telephone (801) 538-3800

NOTIFICATION TO RESPONDENTS

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.