

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE  
OF JOEL BRYANT  
LICENSE NO. 0017329742**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT**

**NOW COME**, Joel Bryant (hereinafter "Mr. Bryant") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

**WHEREAS**, the Department has the authority and responsibility for the enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing bail bondsmen; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bryant holds an active license as a surety bail bondsman issued by the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bryant failed to respond to requests for information requested by the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, NC Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(5) provides that the Commissioner may deny, place on probation, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew any license of a licensee for fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices in the conduct of business or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this State or any other jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a) (7), the Commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license under Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes for failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes or of any order, rule or regulation of the Commissioner; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bryant's failure to respond to inquiries made by the Department demonstrate a failure to comply with and/or a violation of the provisions of Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes for which Mr. Bryant's surety bondsman license could be revoked, suspended or not renewed pursuant to N.C. Gen Stat. §§ 58-71-80(a)(5); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Bryant admits to the violations set out herein; and

**WHEREAS**, in lieu of an administrative hearing on the matters stated herein, Mr. Bryant has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Bryant; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70(g), the Commissioner of Insurance and the Department have the express authority to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement with any person as to the status of the person's license or certificate or as to any civil penalty or restitution; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises and agreements set out herein, the Department and Mr. Bryant hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon his signing of this document, Mr. Bryant shall pay a **civil penalty of \$500.00** to the Department. The form of payment shall be in a certified check, cashier's check or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." Mr. Bryant shall send the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Department simultaneously with the return of this Agreement, signed by Mr. Bryant. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than **June 5, 2020**. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of the public schools.
2. As a condition of continuing to be licensed as a surety bail bondsman, Mr. Bryant will be required to comply with the provisions of N.C. Gen. Statute § 58-71-71(a) and retake and complete at least 12 hours of education as provided by an approved provider in subjects pertinent to the duties and responsibilities of a bail bondsman including all laws and regulations related to being a bail bondsman.. Such pre-licensing education will be in lieu of and satisfy the requirements of N.C. Gen. Statute § 58-71-71(b).
3. Mr. Bryant shall obey all laws and regulations applicable to all licenses issued to him.
4. Mr. Bryant enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Bryant understands that he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
5. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future follow-up examinations of Mr. Bryant, or in any other cases or complaints involving Mr. Bryant.
6. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Bryant understands that N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7) provides that a surety bondsman's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
7. This Voluntary Settlement Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and is not confidential. Any and all licenses issued by the Department to the licensee shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against the licensee following the execution of this

Agreement.  
The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement to third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure. The Department routinely provides copies of voluntary settlement agreements to all companies that have appointed the licensee.

8. This Settlement Agreement shall become effective when signed by Mr. Bryant and the Department.

**N. C. Department of Insurance**

[Redacted Signature]

By: Joel Bryant

License No. 0017329742

[Redacted]

7. 7. 20

Date: 6-17-20

[Redacted Signature]

By: Marty Sumner

Senior Deputy Commissioner

Date: 7/20/20



[Redacted]

11-18-2023