

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



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE**

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER
OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE
OF NIKOLAOS PARAS
LICENSE NO. 0015918699**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

NOW COME, Nikolaos Paras (hereinafter "Mr. Paras") 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 enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agencies and agents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paras currently holds a non-resident producer's license with authority for Property and Casualty lines of insurance issued by the Department; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) requires producers to report to the Commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another state or by another governmental agency in this State, including enforcement actions taken against the producer by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Insurance revoked Mr. Paras' producer's license effective February 19, 2020 for failure to respond to Department inquiries, failure to report an administrative action taken against his license in another jurisdiction, and having his license revoked or suspended by another regulator in another jurisdiction with such actions being deemed by the South Dakota Department to demonstrate a lack of fitness or trustworthiness on the part of Mr. Paras; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paras did not report this administrative action to the Department within 30 days after the final disposition of those matters as required by North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paras admits to this violation of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k); and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that the Commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license issued under Article 58 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for violating any insurance law of this or any other state, violating any administrative rule, subpoena, or order of the Commissioner or of another state's regulator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paras has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matter referenced in this Agreement on behalf of himself, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Paras; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Department initiates an administrative hearing and have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.


NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, Mr. Paras and the Department hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, Mr. Paras shall pay a civil penalty of **\$250.00** to the Department. The form of payment shall be by 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. Paras shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Department along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than **August 12, 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 public schools.
2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future examination of Mr. Paras or in any other complaints involving Mr. Paras.
3. Mr. Paras enters into this Agreement, on behalf of himself, freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Paras understands he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Paras understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that a producer's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will **not** be held confidential by the Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to Mr. Paras shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against him.

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

6. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
7. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the N. C. Department of Insurance has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The N.C. Department of Insurance cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

N. C. Department of Insurance



By: **Nikolaos Paras**
License No. 0015918699



By: **Angela Hatchell**
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 08/10/2020

Date: 8/18/2020