

**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
ROBERT LEE RIPLEY
LICENSE NO. 0016936350**

**VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

NOW COME, Robert Lee Ripley (hereinafter "Mr. Ripley") 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 bail bondsmen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley is currently licensed by the Department as a surety bail bondsman; 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 N.C. General Statutes or of any order, rule or regulation of the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(3), 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 material misstatement, misrepresentation or fraud in obtaining the license; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley, on his June 15, 2016 license renewal application answered "No" to Question 1 thereon; "Have you ever been convicted, or are you **currently charged** with, committing a crime, whether or not adjudication was withheld?": and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley was charged in a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania court on June 08, 2016 with soliciting prostitution and carrying a concealed weapon and did not include such information on his June 15, 2016 renewal application, violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(3); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley, on his May 05, 2018 license renewal application answered "No" to Question 1 thereon; "Have you ever been convicted, or are you currently charged with, committing a crime, whether or not adjudication was withheld?": and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley's charges of soliciting prostitution and carrying a concealed weapon

were reduced to two (2) misdemeanors for which he pled guilty and placed on probation sometime prior to his May 05, 2018 license renewal application; Mr. Ripley did not include such information regarding such convictions on his 2018 renewal application, a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(3); and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(c) provides that if a licensee is convicted in any court of competent jurisdiction for any crime or offense other than a motor vehicle infraction, the licensee shall notify the Commissioner in writing of the conviction within 10 days after the date of the conviction, which includes an adjudication of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of *nolo contendere*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley did not report the two (2) misdemeanor convictions within ten (10) days after the date of such convictions and therefore violated the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-69(c); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley's violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. § § 58-71-80 (a) (3) and 58-2-69 (c) demonstrate a failure to comply with and/or violations of the provisions of Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes for which Mr. Ripley's surety bail bondsman's license could be suspended or revoked; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of an administrative hearing on the matters stated herein, Mr. Ripley 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. Ripley; 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

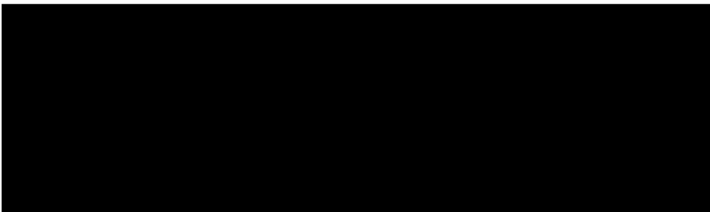
WHEREAS, Mr. Ripley was requested to attend a conference with Department representatives to discuss the effect of these violations on the status of his license, and at such conference Mr. Ripley agreed to pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be paid no later than October 09, 2020; and

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

1. As set forth above, Mr. Ripley shall remit a **civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000.00** to the Department. The form of payment shall be in the form of 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. Ripley shall send the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested or delivered in person, to the Department simultaneously with the return of this Agreement, signed by Mr. Ripley. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than **October 09, 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. Mr. Ripley shall obey all laws and regulations applicable to all licenses issued to him.

3. Mr. Ripley enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Ripley understands that he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
4. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future follow-up examinations of Mr. Ripley, or in any other cases or complaints involving Mr. Ripley.
5. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Ripley understands that N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7) provides that a surety bail bondsman's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
6. This Voluntary Settlement Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and is not confidential. 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, upon request provides a copy of voluntary settlement agreements to all companies that have appointed the licensee.
7. This Settlement Agreement shall become effective when signed by Mr. Ripley and the Department.

N.C. Department of Insurance



By: Robert Lee Ripley
License No. 0016936350



By: Marty Sumner
Senior Deputy Commissioner

Date: 10-8-2020

Date: 10/19/20