

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

116-728

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER  
OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PERMIT  
OF SIA GROUP

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT

NOW COME SIA Group ("SIA") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance ("Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement ("Agreement"):

WHEREAS, the Department has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of Article 70 of N.C. General Statute Chapter 58.

WHEREAS, SIA holds a collection agency permit issued by this Department under Article 70 of N.C. General Statute Chapter 58.

WHEREAS, N.C. General Statute § 58-70-10 requires a collection agency desiring to renew its permit to make application for the renewal no fewer than 30 days before the expiration date of the permit.

WHEREAS, SIA violated N.C. General Statute § 58-70-10 by failing to timely apply for its permit renewal.

WHEREAS, under N.C. General Statute § 58-70-40(c), no collection agency shall be entitled to hold a permit if the Commissioner finds that partner, individual proprietor, or officer of the collection agency has violated or refused to comply with any provision of Article 70 of N.C. General Statute Chapter 58.

WHEREAS, SIA and the Department have 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 against SIA based on these matters.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 58-2-70(g), the Commissioner 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 as to any civil penalty or restitution.

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Department initiates an administrative hearing concerning this matter.

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for, and in consideration of the promises and agreements set out in this Agreement, the Department and SIA hereby agree to the following:

1. SIA agrees to pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the Department. The civil penalty must be paid with a certified check, cashier's check, or money order; and must be received by the Department contemporaneously with the executed Agreement, signed by SIA, no later than October 30, 2015. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution and N.C. General Statute § 115C-457.2 for the benefit of the public schools.
2. SIA enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of its right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. SIA understands that it may consult with an attorney before entering into this Agreement.
3. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future examinations of SIA or in any other complaints involving SIA.
4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. SIA understands that N.C. General Statute § 58-70-40(c)(6) provides that it permit may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
5. SIA has read and understands this Agreement and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions stated in this Agreement.
6. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and is not confidential. Any and all permits issued by the Department to the permittee shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against the permittee following the execution of this Agreement. 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.
7. SIA understands that if a state or federal regulator other than the Department has issued a license or permit to SIA, that regulator may require SIA to report this administrative action to that state or federal regulator. The Department cannot give SIA legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

8. This Agreement shall become effective when signed and attested to by SIA and the Department.

This the <sup>23<sup>rd</sup></sup>~~12~~ day of October, 2015.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

By:   
SIA Group

By:  10-23-15  
Angela Ford  
Senior Deputy Commissioner

