

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF WAKE

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER  
OF INSURANCE

62387

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE  
OF RONALD L. STOCKTON

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT

NOW COME Ronald L. Stockton (hereinafter "Mr. Stockton") 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 insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton holds an active license in the area of Medicare Supplement Long-Term Care issued by the Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton's National Producer Number is 1480266; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton forged a client's signature on a document purported to be a "No Conservation Request" form, dated July 10, 2009, which was used in connection with her application for an annuity contract with American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company of the same date; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton's client is a North Carolina consumer; and

WHEREAS, the "No Conservation Request" form noted above was a form that had not been approved by American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton admitted to forging his client's signature on the "No Conservation Request" form for the purpose of getting the transfer processed quickly, and Mr. Stockton has admitted that this was a lapse in judgment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton attended an informal conference with the Department on October 5, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton's action in forging his client's signature on the "No Conservation Request" form constitutes a violation of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(10), which prohibits "[f]orging another's name to an application for insurance or to any

document related to an insurance transaction,” and is thus a violation of the insurance laws pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(2), for which Mr. Stockton’s agent license could be revoked; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stockton 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. Stockton; 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 of the promises and agreements set out herein, the Mr. Stockton and the Department hereby agree to the following:

1. Immediately upon his signing of this document, Stockton 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”. Stockton shall send the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Department simultaneously with the return of this Agreement, signed by Stockton. **The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than January 4, 2010.**
2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department’s disciplinary power in any future examinations of Mr. Stockton or Stockton Insurance Agency, or in any other complaints involving Mr. Stockton or Stockton Insurance Agency.
3. Mr. Stockton enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of his right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Stockton understands that 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. Stockton understands that N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that an agent’s license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
5. This 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 licensees 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. The Department routinely provides copies of voluntary settlement agreements to all companies that have appointed the licensee.

6. Mr. Stockton has read and understands this Agreement and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.

This the 28 day of DECEMBER 2009.



Ronald L. Stockton

North Carolina Department of  
Insurance



1-4-2010

By: Angela Ford  
Senior Deputy Commissioner