

**BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
WOODOLPH ROMEO  
LICENSE NO. 348502**

**A.I.D. NO. 2009- 0 6 7**

**EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDER**

On this day, the emergency matter of Woodolph Romeo ("Respondent") came before Jay Bradford, Arkansas Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner"). The Arkansas Insurance Department ("Department") is represented by Associate Counsel, Amanda Capps Rose, in this matter. From the facts and law before the Commissioner, he finds as follows:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-61-103. The Commissioner has the authority to issue emergency license suspensions pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 23-64-216(e) and 25-15-211(c).
2. Respondent is licensed to sell life, accident, health and sickness insurance and holds Arkansas Non-Resident Producer License No. 348502.
3. Respondent's last known address is 2270 Baylis Avenue, Elmont, New York 11003.
4. The Department's License Division has received correspondence from Philip E. Teseo Sr. Insurance, Respondent's former employer, dated August 3, 2009 regarding the recent termination of the Respondent's employment following an internal investigation. The correspondence contains the following information:
  - (a) That a background check performed by the State of Michigan revealed a criminal history that the Respondent had failed to disclose, despite being asked by his employer "at least three times" if he had a criminal background; and

(b) That the correspondence from the State of Michigan stated that the Respondent had been convicted of “Promoting Prostitution” and “Profit from Prostitution of a Person less than Sixteen Years Old” in the State of New York.

5. The Department has since located two (2) press releases from the Queens, New York District Attorney’s Office that offer more information regarding the felony convictions. The press releases are dated January 14, 2005 and June 20, 2005 and contain the following information:

(a) That the Respondent was prosecuted, along with a co-defendant, in 2004 for prostituting two girls, ages thirteen (13) and fourteen (14), who had runaway from home;

(b) That “[t]he victims were lured with the promise of shelter and food, raped and sodomized, put on the street the following day and forced to perform hundred[s] of sexual acts for money with males and to give all the proceeds to the defendants;”<sup>1</sup> and

(c) That the Respondent pled guilty to the felony of Promoting Prostitution and received a sentence of up to six (6) years in state prison.

6. Respondent was sentenced on January 14, 2005 and was conditionally released on July 22, 2008 pursuant to a Certificate of Release to Parole Supervision. Respondent remains on parole until July 10, 2010.

7. Following his release from prison, the Respondent applied for an Arkansas Non-Resident Producer License and failed to disclose his criminal history or the existence of any felony convictions. Respondent received his Arkansas Non-Resident Producer License on March 19, 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Queens District Attorney Press Release, June 20, 2005, regarding “Operation Guardian” to combat sexual exploitation of children.

8. The public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

From the Findings of Fact contained herein, the Commissioner concludes as follows:

9. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-512(a)(1), (3), (6), and (8), the Commissioner may revoke an insurance producer's license for any one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- (a) Providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in an application for a license;
- (b) Obtaining a license through misrepresentation or fraud;
- (c) Having been convicted of a felony; and
- (d) Demonstrating a lack of good personal or business reputation.

10. Respondent's felony conviction, the nature of the crime, and his failure to disclose it on his license application are sufficient to justify the revocation of the Respondent's Arkansas Non-Resident Producer License pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-512(a).

11. For the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this State, the Commissioner concludes that the Respondent's Arkansas Non-Resident Producer License No. 348502 should be and hereby is immediately suspended pending an administrative hearing.

12. An administrative hearing has been scheduled for September 17, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-216(e) and notice of same will be provided to the Respondent simultaneously with this Order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.**

  
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JAY BRADFORD  
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
STATE OF ARKANSAS