

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT)
PETITIONER)
)
VS.)
)
BERRY BISHOP AND)
)
ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP OF)
ARKADELPHIA)
RESPONDENTS)

A.I.D. NO. 2018- 42

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION ORDER

On this day, the matter of Berry Bishop and Alliance Insurance Group of Arkadelphia (“Respondents”) came before Allen Kerr, Arkansas Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”). The Arkansas Insurance Department (“Department”) is represented by Gray Allen Turner, Associate Counsel, in this matter. From the facts and law before him, the Commissioner finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Berry Bishop, a resident of Garland County, holds an Arkansas Resident Insurance Producer License, National Producer Number 941570.
2. Respondent Alliance Insurance Group of Arkadelphia, a resident business entity in Clark County, holds an Arkansas Resident Business Entity Producer License, National Producer Number 1650844.
3. To the Department's knowledge and belief Respondent Berry Bishop is president and sole owner of Respondent Alliance Insurance Group of Arkadelphia.
4. The Department has received credible information that the Respondents have fraudulently obtained funds from the Bank of Prescott through forgery on as many as seventeen premium financing agreements. The Respondents used information from four existing customers to create non-existent insurance

policies for collateral for the premium financing agreements. The Bank of Prescott has provided information that more than \$1,000,000 was obtained fraudulently and then transferred to bank accounts belonging to and controlled by Respondents.

5. Respondent Alliance Insurance Group does not have sufficient funds to pay all of the insurance premiums for customers from whom it has accepted premium funds. Respondents have failed to maintain premium funds in trust for customers and have converted premium funds to personal use. The agency cannot account for approximately \$1,700,000 in insurance premiums that were collected by the Respondents and should have been held in trust on behalf of its insurance customers.

6. Respondent Bishop is no longer in active control or management of Alliance Insurance Group and it is unclear under what authority the remaining employees are making managerial and financial decisions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

1. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 23-61-103.

2. The Commissioner has the authority to issue an emergency license suspension pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 23-64-216(e) and 25-15-211(c).

3. Respondents have, as described above, violated Ark. Code Ann § 23-64-512(a)(4), that forbids an insurance producer from "[i]mproperly withholding, misappropriating, or converting any moneys or properties received in the course of doing insurance business."

4. Respondents have, as described above, violated Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-512(a)(10) that forbids forging another's name to an application for insurance or to any document related to an insurance transaction;

5. Respondents have, as described above, violated Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-512(a)(8) that forbids "[u]sing fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices or

demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, lack of good personal or business reputation, or financial irresponsibility . . . "

6. The public health, safety, and welfare imperatively require emergency action as per Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-216(e)(2).

7. An administrative hearing will be held promptly, as required by Ark. Code Ann. § 23-64-216(e)(2).

8. The Commissioner and the Department reserve the right to amend the allegations, findings and conclusions set forth herein and further reserve the right to present additional allegations and evidence in any subsequent order or administrative hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

In consideration of the Commissioner's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Respondent Berry Bishop's insurance producer license, National Producer Number 941570, and Respondent Alliance Insurance Group of Arkadelphia, National Producer Number 1650844, are hereby immediately suspended.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of April 2018.



ALLEN KERR
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF ARKANSAS