STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

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STATE OF ARIZONA

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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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In the Matter of:

SHARON LOUISE SHEPHERD (License number 906253),

Respondent.

No. 08A-141-INS

PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

On September 9, 2008, the Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department") issued a Notice of Hearing ("Notice") in the above-captioned matter, a copy of which is attached and incorporated by this reference. The Notice required Sharon Louise Shepherd ("Shepherd" or "Respondent") to provide a written answer to the allegations set forth in the Notice within twenty days of the issuance of the Notice. As of this date, Respondent has failed to file an answer. On October 3, 2008, counsel for the Department filed a Request for Default and Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order. As of this date, Respondent has not responded to the Department's request. Pursuant to A.A.C.R20-6-106(D), a party that fails to file an answer within the time provided shall be deemed to be in default and one or more of the allegations in the Notice of Hearing may be deemed to be admitted.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Notice was proper.
- 2. Respondent is in default.
- 3. The allegations in the Notice are deemed admitted.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW 1. The conduct alleged in the Notice constitutes grounds for the Director to 2 suspend, revoke or refuse to renew Respondent's license to transact insurance in Arizona, 3 pursuant to A.R.S. §20-295(A). 4 5 ORDER 6 IT IS ORDERED: 7 1. The insurance license held by Respondent is revoked effective upon the 8 issuance of this Order. 9 2. The hearing set for November 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. is vacated. 10 DATED this 14th day of October, 2008. 11 12 13 CHRISTINA URIAS, Director Arizona Department of Insurance 14 COPY of the foregoing mailed this 15 15th day of October, 2008 to: 16 Lewis Kowal, Administrative Law Judge 17 Office of Administrative Hearings 1400 West Washington, Suite 101 18 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 19 Steven Fromholtz, Licensing Supervisor Catherine O'Neil, Legal Affairs 20 Mary Kosinski, Executive Assistant for Regulatory Affairs Arizona Department of Insurance 21 2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210 Phoenix, Arizona 85018 22 23 Sharon Louise Shepherd c/o Steve Hartmann Agency 24 3800 N. Central Avenue, No. 600 Phoenix, Arizona 85012

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Respondent

Sharon Louise Shepherd 542 North Kimberlee Way Chandler, Arizona 85225 Respondent

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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of:)
	Docket No. 08A-141-INS
SHARON LOUISE SHEPHERD (License number 906253))) NOTICE OF HEARING
Respondent) (Administrative Law Judge) Lewis Kowal))

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-captioned matter will be heard before the Director of Insurance of the State of Arizona (the "Director") or her duly designated representative on November 4, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 1400 West Washington, Suite 101, Phoenix, Arizona 85007¹.

If you wish to continue this hearing to another date, you must file a motion in writing with the Office of Administrative Hearings not less than **15** days before the scheduled hearing date. Please send it to the attention of the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") and include the docket number listed above. You must also mail or hand-deliver a copy of any motion to continue to the Department of Insurance on the same date you file it with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

You are not required to have an attorney represent you. However, if you are represented, your attorney must be licensed to practice law in the State of Arizona. An insurance company may be represented by a corporate officer. A.R.S. § 20-161(B).

You are entitled to be present during the giving of all evidence and you will have a reasonable opportunity to inspect all documentary evidence, examine witnesses, present evidence that supports your case and to request that the ALJ issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and production of evidence. A.R.S. §20-164(B).

¹As authorized under Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") §§20-161 through and including 20-165 and Title 41, Chapter 6, Article 10 (A.R.S. § 41-1092 *et seq.*).

A clear and accurate record of the proceedings will be made either by a court reporter or by electronic means. A.R.S. §41-1092.07(E). If you want a copy of an electronic recording, you must contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at (602) 542-9826. If the hearing was transcribed by a court reporter and you want a copy of the transcript, you must pay the cost of the transcript to the court reporter or other transcriber

If you have questions concerning this Notice of Hearing please direct them to Mary Kosinski, Arizona Department of Insurance, (602) 364-3471, 2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona 85018.

NOTICE OF APPLICABLE RULES

On January 23, 1992, we adopted the rules of practice and procedure applicable in contested cases before the Director of Insurance. The hearing will be conducted pursuant to these rules. A.A.C. R20-6-101 through R20-6-115.

YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE (ANSWER) TO THE ALLEGATIONS IN THIS NOTICE WITH US WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER WE ISSUE THIS NOTICE. A.A.C. R20-6-106. YOUR RESPONSE SHOULD STATE YOUR POSITION OR DEFENSE AND SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ADMIT OR DENY EACH ASSERTION IN THE NOTICE. IF YOU DO NOT SPECIFICALLY DENY AN ASSERTION, WE WILL CONSIDER IT ADMITTED. ANY DEFENSE YOU DO NOT RAISE WILL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED.

IF YOU DO NOT FILE YOUR RESPONSE ON TIME, WE WILL CONSIDER YOU IN DEFAULT AND THE DIRECTOR MAY DEEM THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE AS TRUE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS APPROPRIATE INCLUDING SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, IMPOSITION OF A CIVIL PENALTY AND ORDERING RESTITUTION TO ANY INJURED PERSON.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MAY REQUEST REASONABLE

ACCOMMODATIONS SUCH AS INTERPRETERS, ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, OR

ASSISTANCE WITH PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

SHOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW TIME TO ARRANGE THE

ACCOMMODATIONS. IF YOU REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AT (602) 542-9826.

The allegations supporting this Notice of Hearing are as follows:

- 1. Sharon Louise Shepherd ("Respondent") is, and was at all material times licensed as a resident life and accident/health producer, Arizona license number 906253 which expires December 31, 2010.
- 2. Respondent's mailing, business and residence addresses of record with the Department are: c/o Steve Hartmann Agency, 3800 N. Central Ave., #600, Phoenix, Arizona 85012 (business); 542 N. Kimberlee Way, Chandler, Arizona 85225 (mailing and residence).
- 3. On or about November 14, 2007, the Department issued to Respondent an insurance license as a resident life and accident/health producer, Arizona license number 906253.
- 4. On February 27, 2008, the Department notified Respondent by mail at her mailing/residence address of record that her fingerprint card had been processed and returned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") as illegible. The Department requested a replacement set of fingerprints along with a completed "Illegible Fingerprint Replacement Form" on or before April 1, 2008.
- 5. On June 26, 2008, the Department notified Respondent by mail at her mailing/residence address of record that it was about to initiate an administrative action against her license for failure to comply with the fingerprint requirement. The Department requested a response by July 28, 2008.
- 6. To date, Respondent has not submitted a full set of fingerprints to the Department.

VIOLATIONS

- 7. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes the violation of the requirement that an applicant submit a full set of fingerprints to the Department within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-285(F)(2).
- 8. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes providing incomplete information in the license application within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(1).

- 9. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes the violation of any provision of A.R.S. Title 20 or any rule, subpoena or order of the director within the meaning of A.R.S.§20-295(A)(2).
- 10. Grounds exist for the Director to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew Respondent's insurance license, impose a civil penalty and/or order restitution pursuant to A.R.S. §§20-295(A) and (F).

WHEREFORE, if after hearing, the Director finds the grounds alleged above, the Director may deny, suspend, or revoke Respondent's insurance producer's license. A.R.S. § 20-295 (A).

The Director delegates the authority vested in her to the Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings or his designee to preside over the hearing of this matter as the Administrative Law Judge, to make written recommendations to the Director consisting of proposed findings of fact, proposed conclusions of law, and a proposed order. This delegation does not include delegation of the authority of the Director to make an order on the hearing or any other final decision in this matter. A.R.S. § 20-150.

The Office of Administrative Hearings is an independent agency. A.R.S §41-1092.01. Please find enclosed a copy of the procedures to be followed. Further hearing information may also be found at the Office of Administrative Hearings website: www.azoah.com.

DATED this Sty day of September, 2008.

GERRIE MARKS, Deputy Director Arizona Department of Insurance

COPIES of the foregoing mailed/delivered, return receipt requested, this 9th day of September, 2008, to:

Sharon Louise Shepherd c/o Steve Hartmann Agency 3800 N. Central Ave., #600 Phoenix, Arizona 85012 Respondent