# STATE OF ARIZONA

STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

APR 14 2015

DEPT OF INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of:

APPLEWHITE, KELLY JEAN
(Arizona License Number 80358)
(National Producer Number 6737909)

No. 15A-0293INS

CONSENT ORDER

and KELLY APPLEWHITE INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

(Arizona License Number 1102420)

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Respondents.

The State of Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department") has received evidence that Kelly Jean Applewhite and Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency, LLC ("Respondents") violated provisions of Title 20, Arizona Revised Statutes. Respondents wish to resolve this matter without the commencement of formal proceedings, and admit the following Findings of Fact are true and consent to entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Kelly Jean Applewhite ("Applewhite") is, and was at all material times, licensed as an Arizona resident accident/health, life, casualty, property, variable life and variable annuities insurance producer, Arizona license number 80358, which expires January 31, 2017.
- 2. Applewhite's address of record is: 1285 Hancock Road, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442 (business and mailing).
- 3. Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency, LLC ("Kelly Applewhite Agency") is licensed as an Arizona resident accident/health, life, casualty, property, variable life and

variable annuities producer, Arizona license number 1102420, which expires January 31, 2019. Kelly Applewhite Agency was first licensed on January 29, 2015.

- Kelly Applewhite Agency's address of record is: 1285 Hancock Rd., Bullhead
   City, Arizona 86442 (business and mailing).
- Applewhite is the sole member and Designated Responsible Licensed
   Producer for Kelly Applewhite Agency.
- 6. Applewhite was at all material times contracted with Farmers New World Life Insurance Company ("Farmers") to transact insurance on its behalf in Arizona.

## BARTON COMPLAINT

- 7. On or about June 10, 2014, Kirk Barton ("Barton")<sup>1</sup> secured a \$3,500 policy loan under Farmers policy number 006137604B. Barton is the ex-spouse of Applewhite. At the time the policy loan was taken, Barton was the policyowner and Applewhite was the insured.
- 8. On or about July 24, 2014, an ownership change was completed by Farmers assigning Applewhite as the policy owner for policy number 006137604B.
  - 9. On August 5, 2014, Applewhite surrendered policy number 006137604B.
- 10. On or about August 6, 2014, Barton submitted check number 1915 in the amount of \$3,500 to Farmers for the repayment of the policy loan taken in June 2014. Farmers, unable to apply Barton's payment because the policy had been surrendered, mailed Barton's original uncashed check to Applewhite.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Kirk Louis Barton is licensed as a resident accident/health, life, variable life/variable annuities, property and casualty insurance producer, license number 52369.

- 11. Applewhite lined through the policy number initially written by Barton and added her name and individually owned policy number (001315504T) to the top right corner of Barton's check.
- 12. Applewhite deposited Barton's check into her Wells Fargo business checking account number ending 3649 and subsequently applied Barton's \$3,500 payment to her individually owned life insurance policy as she believed that Barton owed her monies as the result of the divorce settlement.

## **UNLICENSED ACTIVITY**

- 13. Applewhite has been conducting insurance business under the names Kelly Barton Insurance Agency since October 15, 2011 and the Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency since about June or July, 2013. Neither Kelly Barton Insurance Agency or Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency are registered business names or are licensed with the Department.
  - 14. Kelly Applewhite Agency obtained a license on January 29, 2015.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- The Director has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Applewhite's conduct, as described above, constitutes improperly withholding, misappropriating or converting any monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business in this state, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(4).
- 3. Kelly Applewhite Agency's conduct, as described above, constitutes selling, soliciting or negotiating insurance in this state for any class or classes of insurance without being licensed for that line of authority, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-282.

4. Grounds exist for the Director to deny, suspend for not more than twelve months, revoke, or refuse to renew an insurance producer's license, impose a civil penalty and/or order restitution pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 20-295(A) and (F).

## ORDER

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- Respondent's should immediately pay a civil penalty of \$750.00 for deposit into the State General Fund.
- Respondents are jointly and severally responsible for payment of the civil penalty.

DATED this 14 day of April, 2015.

GERMAINE L. MARKS, Director Arizona Department of Insurance

#### **CONSENT TO ORDER**

- Respondents have reviewed the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.
- Respondents admit the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of
   Arizona, and admit the foregoing Findings of Fact and consent to the entry of the foregoing
   Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. Respondents are aware of their right to notice and hearing at which they may be represented by counsel, present evidence and examine witnesses. Respondents irrevocably waive their right to such notice and hearing and to any court appeals relating to this Consent Order.

- 4. Respondents state that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever, except as expressly contained in this Consent Order, was made to them to induce them to enter into this Consent Order and that they have entered into this Consent Order voluntarily.
- 5. Respondents acknowledge that the acceptance of this Consent Order by the Director is solely to settle this matter against them and does not preclude any other agency, including the Department, officer, or subdivision of this state or this agency from instituting civil or criminal proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 6. Respondents acknowledge that this Consent Order is an administrative action that the Department will report to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Respondents further acknowledge that they must report this administrative action to any and all states in which they hold an insurance license and must disclose this administrative action on any license application.
- 7. Kelly Jean Applewhite represents that she is the sole member of Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency, LLC and, as such, is authorized to enter into this Consent Order on its behalf.

Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency, LLC

Date 23

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AppleWhite, Arizona License # 80358

1	COPIES of the foregoing mailed/delivered
2	this 31 day of Nanch, 2015, to:
3	Kelly Jean Applewhite
4	Kelly Applewhite Insurance Agency, LLC 1285 Hancock Road
	Bullhead City, Arizona 86442 Respondents
5	Respondents
6	Mary Kosinski, Executive Assistant for Regulatory Affairs Darren T. Ellingson, Deputy Director
7	Yvonne Hunter, Assistant Director Consumer Affairs
8	Catherine M. O'Neil, Consumer Legal Affairs Officer Steve Fromholtz, Licensing Supervisor
9	Charles Gregory, Investigations Supervisor Gloria Barnes-Jackson, Investigator
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13	Maidene Scheiner  Maidene Scheiner
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