# BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OF	KLAHOMA FILES
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. JOHN D. DOAK, Insurance Commissioner,	CLAHOMA  FILED  OCT 0 1 2018  OKLAHOMA  OKLAHOMA  OKLAHOMA
Petitioner,	) OKLAHOMA SIONED
VS.	)
GREGORY BATES, a licensed bail bondsman in	
the State of Oklahoma,	)
	) CASE NO. 18-0628-DIS
AND	)
AND	
	)
UNITED STATES FIRE INSURANCE CO.,	)
an insurance company licensed to act as	
bail surety in the state of Oklahoma,	)
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Respondents.	)

# CONDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO BE HEARD

COMES NOW the State of Oklahoma, ex rel. John D. Doak, Insurance Commissioner, by and through counsel, Sara A. Worten, and alleges and states as follows:

# **JURISDICTION**

- 1. John D. Doak is the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oklahoma and, as such, is charged with the duty of administering and enforcing all provisions of the Oklahoma Insurance Code, 36 O.S. §§ 101-7401, and the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act, 59 O. S. §§ 1301-1341.
- 2. Respondent Gregory Bates ("Bates") is a bail bondsman in the State of Oklahoma holding license number 199085. His address of record is 209 S. Peoria Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120.
- 3. Respondent, United Fire Insurance Company (USFIC") is an insurance company licensed to act as bail surety in the state of Oklahoma holding NAIC number 21113.

- 4. The Insurance Commissioner has jurisdiction over the subject matter raised in this dispute and may issue penalties pursuant to 59 O.S. §§ 1310 and 1332 and 36 O.S. §§ 619.
- 5. If Bates or USFIC requests a hearing in writing in this matter, pursuant to *OAC* 365:1-7-1, the Insurance Commissioner, pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1311.1 and 36 O.S. § 319, will appoint an independent hearing examiner who shall sit as a quasi-judicial officer and preside over the hearing requested by Respondent.
- 6. The Insurance Commissioner, pursuant to *OAC 365:1-7-5*, upon written request reasonably made by a person affected by the hearing and at such person's expense, shall cause a full stenographic record of the proceedings to be made by a competent court reporter.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

7. On or about January 29, 2018, an appearance bond was executed as follows:

Defendant:

Freddie Wallace

Case Number(s):

CF-2017-1277

City/County:

Muskogee County

Surety:

United States Fire Insurance Company

Bondsman:

**Gregory Bates** 

Power Number(s):

U5-20652589

Bond Amount(s):

\$1,000.00

- 8. On March 29, 2018, the Defendant failed to appear and the bond was declared forfeited. An Order and Judgment of Forfeiture was issued and filed in the case on April 9, 2018, by the Muskogee County District Court. A true and correct copy of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture was mailed to Bates and USFIC with return receipt requested within 30 days after the Order's filing.
  - 9. Bates received a copy of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture on April 11, 2018.
  - 10. USFIC received a copy of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture on April 13,

2018.

- 11. The ninety-first (91<sup>st</sup>) day after receipt of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture was July 11, 2018.
- 12. As of the date of the filing of this Conditional Administrative Order, the forfeiture has not been paid. The defendant was not timely returned to custody.

# CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 13. Bates violated 59 O.S. 1310(A)(2) and (28), by failing to return the Defendant to custody within 90 days or remit payment in the face amount of the bond forfeiture within 91 days from receipt of the Order and Judgment of Forfeiture in accordance with the provisions of 59 O.S. § 1332 and OAC 365:25-5-40 and 365:25-5-41.
- 14. USFIC violated 36 O.S. § 619 by failing to comply with OAC 365:25-5-40 and 365:25-5-41(b)(2) and as also required by 59 O.S. §1332.
- 15. Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1310(B), any bondsman violating a provision of the Bail Bond Act, 59 O.S. §§ 1301-1341, may be subject to a fine of not less than \$250.00 but not more than \$2,500.00 per violation.
- 16. Pursuant to 36 O.S. § 618, any insurance company violating any provision of any statute for which the Commissioner has jurisdiction may be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.00 for each occurrence.

### **ORDER**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Bates and USFIC are each FINED \$500.00.

The fines are to be paid within 30 days of the date of this Conditional Administrative Order and made payable to the Oklahoma Insurance Department. Failure to comply with

a proper order of the Commissioner may result in further administrative action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the face amount of the bond forfeiture shall be deposited with the Muskogee County District Court Clerk within 30 days of receipt of this Order, should the Court Clerk show the bond outstanding. Failure to do so shall result in the Bates' license being suspended and CANCELLATION of USFIC's license privilege and authorization to do business within the State of Oklahoma and CANCELLATION of the surety appointment of all surety bondsman agents of USFIC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Insurance Commissioner that this Order is a Conditional Order. Unless USFIC or Bates request a hearing with respect to the Allegations of Fact set forth above within 30 days of the date of this Order, the penalties set forth above shall become a Final Order on the thirty-first day following the date of mailing this Order. A request for hearing should be in writing and addressed to Sara Worten Oklahoma Insurance Department, Legal Division, 3625 NW 56th St., Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112. The request for hearing must state the grounds for the request to set aside or modify the Order and shall be served on the Oklahoma Insurance Department within the thirty (30) days allotted. The proceedings on such requested hearing will be conducted in accordance with the Oklahoma Insurance Code, 36 O.S. §§ 101 et seq., the Oklahoma Bail Bond Act, 59 O.S. § 1311.1 and the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, 75 O.S. §§ 250 through 324. If USFIC or Bates serves a timely request for hearing on the Oklahoma Insurance Department, this Conditional Order shall act as a notice of the matters to be reviewed at the hearing and the Allegations of Fact, Alleged Violations of Law, and penalties imposed in this Conditional Order shall be considered withdrawn, pending final resolution at the hearing.

# WITNESS My Hand and Official Seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2018.





JOHN D. DOAK INSURANCE COMMISSIONER STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Assistant General Counsel 3625 NW 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73112

Tel. (405) 521-2746 Fax (405) 522-0125

# **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

United States Fire Insurance Company 305 Madison Avenue Morristown, NJ 07962

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.

9214 8902 0982 7500 0131 38

Gregory Bates 209 S. Peoria Avenue Tulsa, OK 74120-2613

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.

9214 8902 0982 7500 0131 45

and a copy was delivered to:

Lewis Garrison Renonda Stogsdill Bail Bonds Division



18-ae28-115 840 (USFire)

Date Produced: 10/15/2018

## OKLAHOMA INSURANCE DEPARTMENT:

The following is the delivery information for Certified Mail™/RRE item number 9214 8902 0982 7500 0131 38. Our records indicate that this item was delivered on 10/11/2018 at 08:25 a.m. in MORRISTOWN, NJ 07960-4085. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

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# JOHN D. DOAK

**Insurance Commissioner** Oklahoma Insurance Department 3625 N.W. 56th St., Ste. #100 Oklahoma City, OK 73112-4511 5 Corporate Plaza

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USPS CERTIFIED MAIL



GREGORY BATES 209 SPEORIA AVE TUCSA OK 74120-2613

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