FILED

MAR 25 2024

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
OKLAHOMA

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. GLEN MULREADY, Insurance Commissioner, Petitioner, vs. **TERESA ANN STEELE**, an applicant for a non-resident adjuster license, Respondent.	)	Case No. 23-0361-DIS

CONSENT ORDER

COMES NOW the State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Glen Mulready, Insurance Commissioner, and the Respondent, Teresa Ann Steel ("Respondent") stipulate to the following facts and applicable laws. The parties consent to entry of this Consent Order.

JURISDICTION

1. Glen Mulready is the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oklahoma and is charged with the duty of administering and enforcing all provisions of the Oklahoma Insurance Code, 36 O.S. §§ 101 *et seq.*, including the Oklahoma Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act, 36 O.S. §§ 6201 *et seq.*
2. Respondent Teresa Ann Steele is a non-resident adjuster holding license number 40154904. Respondent's mailing address of record is [redacted].
3. The Insurance Commissioner has jurisdiction over the subject matter raised in this dispute and may issue penalties pursuant to 36 O.S. §6220.
4. Informal disposition of this matter may be made by consent order pursuant to 75 O.S. § 309(E).

AGREED FINDINGS OF FACTS

5. On or about November 30, 2022, Respondent's adjuster license for the State of Oklahoma expired.
6. On or about April 11, 2023, Respondent submitted an application to renew her nonresident adjuster license.
7. From approximately November 30, 2022 to April 11, 2023, Respondent adjusted one hundred thirty eight (138) claims while Respondent's license was expired.
8. Respondent provided a list acknowledging one hundred thirty-eight (138) claims were adjusted by Respondent while her license was expired.
9. Pursuant to the Insurance Adjuster Licensing Act, an adjuster shall have authority in accordance with his or her license only to investigate or report to his or her principal upon claims on behalf of the insurers if the adjuster is licensed as an insurance adjuster, or on behalf of the insured if licensed as a public adjuster. *See* 36 O.S. § 6216(A).
10. Pursuant to 36 O.S. § 6220 (A)-(B), in addition to any potential denial, censure, suspension or revocation, The Insurance Commissioner may subject any person violating the provisions of the Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act to civil fines of not more than $1,000 for each violation. *See* 36 O.S. §§ 6220(A)–(B).
11. Pursuant to 36 O.S. § 6220(A)(9) it is a violation of the Adjuster Licensing Act for "adjusting losses or negotiating claim settlements arising pursuant to provisions of insurance contracts on behalf of an insurer or the insured party." *See* 36 O.S. § 6220(A)(9).

12. Pursuant to 36 O.S. § 6220(E), it is unlawful for any person, firm, association, company, or corporation to act as an adjuster without first obtaining a license pursuant to the Insurance Adjusters Licensing Act.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent violated 36 O.S. § 6220(A)(9) and 36. O.S. 6220(E) by adjusting losses or negotiating claim settlements arising pursuant to provisions of insurance contract on behalf of an insurer or insured without proper licensing from the Commissioner when Respondent adjusted one hundred thirty-eight (138) claims from November 30, 2022 to April 11, 2023 without an adjuster license from the Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Insurance Commissioner and CONSENTED to by the Respondent that Respondent is hereby **FINED** in the amount of **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($300.00)** for violation of 36 O.S. § 6220(A)(9). The fine is to be paid within thirty (30) days of this order and made payable to the Oklahoma Insurance Department. The civil fine shall be paid by money order or cashier's check.

WITNESS My Hand and Official Seal this 28th day of March 2024.

GLEN MULREADY
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Brian Downs
First Deputy Commissioner
Oklahoma Insurance Department

AGREED:

Julie Reding, OBA #15522
Assistant General Counsel
Oklahoma Insurance Department

Stephen McCaleb, OBA No. 15649
Attorney for Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Julie Reding, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *Consent Order* was mailed by first class U.S. Mail and by certified mail, with postage prepaid and return receipt requested, on this 28th day of March 2024 to:

Teresa Ann Steele
[redacted]

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.
9214 8902 0982 7500 0614 43

and a copy was delivered to:

Licensing Division

Julie Reding

Julie Reding, OBA No. 15522
Assistant General Counsel