## STATE OF ARIZONA

Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions FILED September 9, 2021 by AS

# 1

## 2

3

4

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

## STATE OF ARIZONA

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the Matter of:

STINE, ALISON NICOLE (National Producer No. 16874608)

Respondent.

No. 21A-070-INS

**CONSENT ORDER** 

RECEIVED

SEP - 9 2021

DEPT OF INSURANCE & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions ("Department") has received evidence that **Alison Nicole Stine** ("Stine" or "Respondent") violated provisions of Title 20, Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S."). Respondent wishes to resolve this matter without the commencement of formal proceedings, and admits the following Findings of Fact are true, and consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Stine is, and was at all material times, licensed as an Arizona insurance producer with three (3) lines of authority: accident and health or sickness, life, and variable life and variable annuity. Stine's license, National Producer Number 16874608, was initially issued on January 23, 2013. The license renewed effective September 1, 2020 and is set to expire on August 31, 2024.
- 2. Stine's business and mailing address of record with the Department is 8129 East Cypress Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85257-2814. Stine's business e-mail address of record with the Department is <a href="mailto:alison@stinewealthmanagement.com">alison@stinewealthmanagement.com</a>.

## **Equitable Complaint**

- 3. On or about November 9, 2020, the Department received a written complaint from Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company ("Equitable") alleging that Stine was terminated for cause for forging the names of other financial professionals and sending confidential client information to her personal email in violation of company policy.
- 4. According to Equitable, Stine forged the signatures of two (2) colleagues, investment advisors R.M. and P.K., on a deferred compensation 457 Plan Participation Agreement ("Agreement"). The Agreement is an internal, "non-client facing" form. Equitable stated that Stine admitted to forging the signatures for efficiency and expediency.
- 5. Equitable provided a copy of the Agreement to the Department. The Agreement showed the signatures of Stine, R.M., and P.K. Both R.M. and P.K. signed sworn affidavits that they neither signed, nor authorized anyone to sign, the Agreement on their behalf.
- 6. Equitable provided the Department with an affidavit signed by Stine on October 20, 2020 in which she confirmed emailing client information, including clients' birthdates and policy numbers, from her Equitable email account to her personal email account. In her affidavit, Stine stated that she no longer holds the client information in her personal email account.

22 1/

7. On June 9, 2021, the Department conducted an interview with Stine. During this interview, Stine admitted to forging the signatures of R.M. and P.K. on the Agreement. Stine also confirmed that the forged signatures were the basis for her termination from Equitable. Stine further admitted to sending sensitive client information to her personal email account in violation of Equitable's privacy policy.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 8. The Director of the Department ("Director") has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 9. Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes using fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(8).
- 10. Grounds exist for the Director to suspend for not more than twelve months or revoke Respondent's insurance producer license, pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-295(A).
- 11. Grounds exist, in addition to or instead of any suspension or revocation, for the Director to impose a civil penalty of not more than \$250.00 for each unintentional failure or violation up to an aggregate civil penalty of \$2,500.00, or impose a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500.00 for each intentional failure or violation, up to an aggregate civil penalty of \$15,000.00.

20

22

# 

#### ORDER

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Alison Stine shall immediately pay a civil penalty in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

Effective this 9th day of September , 2021.



Evan G. Daniels, Director

Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions

## **CONSENT TO ORDER**

- Respondent has reviewed the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Director of the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions and admits the foregoing Findings of Fact and consent to the entry of the foregoing Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. Respondent is aware of her right to notice and to a hearing, at which she may be represented by counsel, present evidence and examine witnesses.
- 4. Respondent irrevocably waives her right to such notice and hearing and to any court appeals relating to this Consent Order.
- 5. Respondent states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever, except as expressly contained in this Consent Order, was made to induce her to enter into this Consent Order and that she has entered into this Consent Order voluntarily.

1

6.

2

3

4

5

6 7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

19

18

20

21

09/08/2021

Respondent acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Order by the Director is solely to settle this matter and does not preclude the Department from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future. Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Order, this Consent Order does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning the Respondent, including but not limited to violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Respondent acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Department, this Consent Order makes no representations, implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning the Respondent.

- 7. Respondent acknowledges that this Consent Order is an administrative action that the Department will report to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Respondent further acknowledges that she must report this administrative action to any and all states in which she holds an insurance license and must disclose this administrative action on any license application.
- Respondent waives all rights to seek an administrative or judicial review or 8. otherwise to challenge or contest the validity of this Consent Order and its accompanying parts before any court of competent jurisdiction.

(NPN License No. 16874608)

1	COPY of the foregoing delivered by E-mail	
	this 10th day of September , 2021, to:	
2	Alison Nicole Stine	
3	8129 E. Cypress St.	
4	Scottsdale, AZ 85257-2814 alison@stinewealthmanagement.com	
4	Respondent	
5	COPY of the foregoing delivered/emailed same date, to:	
6	D i O D I I I I A CC in OCC an	
7	Deian Ousounov, Regulatory Legal Affairs Officer Ana Starcevic, Paralegal Project Specialist Catherine M. O'Neil, Consumer Legal Affairs Officer	
8	Steven Fromholtz, Division Manager, Licensing Division Linda Lutz, Legal Assistant, Licensing Division	
9	Aqueelah Currie, Licensing Supervisor Wendy Greenwood, Investigator	
10	Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions 100 North 15th Avenue, Suite 261	
11	Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2630	
12		
13	Francine Juarez	
14	Francine Juarez Francine Juarez	
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		