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STATE OF ARIZONA

AUG 2 4 1995

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

) Docket No. 95-116

RODNEY JOSEPH RICHMOND, dba RICHMOND INSURANCE AGENCY,

In the Matter of

Respondent.

ORDER

On August 17, 1995, a hearing took place in the above-referenced matter. Assistant Attorney General Gerrie L. Switzer appeared on behalf of the Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department"). Respondent Rodney Joseph Richmond, dba Richmond Insurance Agency ("Mr. Richmond") appeared in person on his own behalf.

Based upon the entire record, including all pleadings, motions, testimony, and exhibits, Administrative Law Judge Lewis D. Kowal prepared the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for consideration and approval by the Director of the Department (the "Director"). The Director adopts and enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and enters the following Order:

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. At all times material to this matter, Mr. Richmond was licensed as a life and disability agent in the State of Arizona (License No. 349731). The License is due to expire February 28, 1997.
- 2. On September 7, 1994, Mr. Richmond accepted an application and premium in the amount of \$1,776.00 from Anne Svoboda ("Ms. Svoboda") for long term care insurance for one year

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to be issued by United American Insurance Company ("United American").

- 3. On September 7, 1994, Mr. Richmond also accepted an application and premium in the amount of \$1,026.00 from Anne Svoboda on behalf of Mary Kastanek ("Ms. Kastanek"), her sister, for long term care insurance for one year to be issued by United American.
- 4. At all times material to this matter, Mr. Richmond had authority from United American to deposit premium checks made payable to United American into an account created for that purpose at Valley National Bank, subsequently acquired by Bank One (the "Bank One account").
- 5. The vested commission contract Mr. Richmond had with United American authorized Mr. Richmond to keep his commission that was due him from the premium amounts he deposited in the Bank One account and forward the net premiums to United American.
- 6. On October 4, 1994, Mr. Richmond forwarded check number 1012 drawn on the Bank One account to United American as the net premium for Ms. Svoboda and Ms. Kastanek in the amount of \$1,120.00.
- 7. On October 20, 1994, Mr. Richmond's check number 1012 was returned unpaid to United American for insufficient funds.
- 8. As of October 20, 1994, Mr. Richmond had a debit balance with United American in the amount of \$2,937.33.

- 9. In August, 1994, Irvin Taunton, Vice-President of United American, offered a payment plan to Mr. Richmond to pay off his debit balance at the rate of \$100.00 per month.
- 10. Mr. Richmond never made any monthly payments to reduce his debit balance with United American.
- 11. In response to receiving the insufficient funds check number 1012, on October 20, 1994 United American made a demand upon Mr. Richmond by mailgram for payment of the total amount owed to be remitted within ten days.
- 12. Mr. Richmond failed to remit the total amount owed to United American within the ten day period.
- 13. In November, 1994, United American terminated its vested commission contract with Mr. Richmond.
- 14. As of July 24, 1995, Mr. Richmond's account with United American had a credit balance of \$267.00 as a result of renewal commissions having been applied to the account to offset the debit balance.
- 15. In December, 1994, Ms. Svoboda received from Mr. Richmond the United American long term care policies issued to her and Ms. Kastanek.
- 16. In December, 1994, Ms. Svoboda cancelled the United American long term care policies issued to her and Ms. Kastanek and received from United American a refund check for the total amount of the premium paid for those policies.
- 17. At the time of the cancellation of the United
  American policies in December, 1994, Ms. Svoboda submitted to Mr.
  Richmond applications and a check in the sum of \$2,889.00 for
  long term care insurance for a two year period for herself and

Ms. Kastanek to be issued by Penn Treaty Life Insurance Company ("Penn Treaty").

- 18. Mr. Richmond testified at the hearing that he deposited Ms. Svoboda's \$2,889.00 check into his bank account and forwarded the Penn Treaty applications for Ms. Svoboda and Ms. Kastanek and the net premium for those policies to Penn Treaty.
- 19. Approximately three to four weeks after Mr. Richmond had submitted the applications and net premium for Ms. Svobada and Ms. Kastanek to Penn Treaty, the applications and net premium check were returned to Mr. Richmond. Due to Mr. Richmond's outstanding debit account with Penn Treaty, Penn Treaty requested that Mr. Richmond resubmit the applications with the full premium amount of \$2,889.00 so that the amount in excess of the net premium could be applied to reduce his debit account.
- 20. Mr. Richmond testified that he did not have sufficient funds to submit the full premium amount of \$2,889.00 to Penn Treaty for the insurance policies to be issued to Ms. Syoboda and Ms. Kastanek.
- 21. There was conflicting testimony from Mr. Richmond and Ms. Svoboda as to whether Mr. Richmond notified Ms. Svoboda as to what had occurred regarding the Penn Treaty applications.

  According to Ms. Svoboda, whose testimony was more credible than that of Mr. Richmond, after Ms. Svoboda submitted the Penn Treaty applications and premium to Mr. Richmond, she never had any further contact with him.
- 22. Mr. Richmond failed to obtain long term care coverage for Ms. Svoboda and Ms. Kastanek after he received the Penn Treaty applications and premium from Ms. Svoboda.

- 23. To date, Mr. Richmond has failed to refund the \$2,889.00 premium amount to Ms. Svoboda.
- 24. Mr. Richmond apologized at the hearing for: a) issuance of the insufficient funds check to United American; b) his failure to obtain long term care coverage for Ms. Svoboda and Ms. Kastanek; and c) his failure to refund Ms. Svoboda the sum of \$2,889.00. Mr. Richmond stated that he intends to refund that sum to Ms. Svoboda.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Mr. Richmond received notice of this proceeding as prescribed by A.R.S. §§20-163 and 41-1061.
- 2. The Director has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to A.R.S. §20-161.
- 3. Mr. Richmond's conduct constitutes a record of dishonesty in business or financial matters under A.R.S. §20-290(B)(2).
- 1. Mr. Richmond's conduct constitutes the existence of any cause for which original issuance or any renewal of an insurance license could have been refused such that Mr. Richmond's licenses may be suspended or revoked pursuant to A.R.S. §§20-316(A)(1), together with 20-290(B)(2).
- 2. Mr. Richmond's conduct constitutes a wilful violation of, or wilful noncompliance with, any provision of this title, or any lawful rule, regulation or order of the director in violation of A.R.S. §20-316(A)(2).
- 3. Mr. Richmond's conduct constitutes
  misappropriation or conversion to his own use or illegal
  withholding of monies belonging to policyholders, insurers,

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beneficiaries or others and received in or during the conduct of business under the license or through its use in violation of A.R.S.  $\S 20-316(A)(4)$ .

- Mr. Richmond's conduct constitutes conduct of affairs under the license showing the licensee to be incompetent or a source of injury and loss to, or repeated complaint by, the public or any insurer in violation of A.R.S. §20-316(A)(7).
- 5. Grounds exist to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew Mr. Richmond's license and impose civil penalties, pursuant to A.R.S. §20-316(A) and (C).

### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

- All Arizona insurance licenses issued to Rodney Joseph Richmond dba Richmond Insurance Agency shall be revoked effective immediately.
- 2. Rodney Joseph Richmond dba Richmond Insurance Agency shall within 30 days of the date of this Order pay restitution in the sum of \$2,889.00 to Anne Svoboda and provide proof of such payment to the Arizona Department of Insurance within 45 days.

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3. Rodney Joseph Richmond dba Richmond Insurance
Agency shall within 60 days of the date of this Order pay a civil
penalty of \$500.00 to the Arizona Department of Insurance.

CHRIS HERSTAM

CHRIS HERSTAM
Director of Insurance

day of August, 1995.

hew D. Kowal

LEWIS D. KOWAL Chief Administrative Law Judge

## NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

The aggrieved party may request a rehearing with respect to this Order by filing a written petition with the Administrative Law Division within 30 days of the date of this Order, setting forth the basis for such relief pursuant to A.A.C. R20-6-114(B).

The final decision of the Director may be appealed to the Superior Court of Maricopa County for judicial review pursuant to A.R.S. §20-166.

COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 24th day of August, 1995, to:

DATED this 24th

Charles R. Cohen, Deputy Director Gregory Y. Harris, Executive Assistant Director John Gagne, Manager, Investigations Arnold Sniegowski, Investigator Maureen Catalioto, Supervisor Department of Insurance 2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 210 Phoenix, Arizona 85018

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2	Assistant Attorney General 1275 W. Washington
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5	Phoenix, Arizona 85016
6	Rodney Joseph Richmond 2620 N. 40th St., #2
7	Phoenix, Arizona 85008
8	Rodney Joseph Richmond Richmond Insurance Agency
9	2620 N. 40th St., #2 Phoenix, Arizona 85008
10	Anne Syoboda
11	10038 Palmer Dr. Sun City, AZ 85381
12	Nan Neathery United American Insurance Company
13	P.O. Box 810 Dallas, TX 75221-0810
14	Irvin Taunton
15	United American Insurance Company P.O. Box 810
16	Dallas, TX 75221-0810
17	Jackson National Life Insurance Company P.O. Box 24068 Lansing, MI 48909
18	
19	LifeUSA Insurance COmpany
20	P.O. Box 59060 Minneapolis, MN 55459-0060
21	Life and Health Insurance Co. of America 2200 Walnut St. Philadelphia, PA 19103
22	
<b>2</b> 3	Allianz Life Assurance Company 1750 Hennepin Ave.
24	Minneapolis, MN 55403
25	Mutual Protective Life Insurance Company
26	P.O. Box 3477 Omaha, NE 68103
27	USG Annuity and Life Company
28	P.O. Box 617 Des Moines, IA 50303-0617

1	Transport Life Insurance Company 714 Main St.
2	Fort Worth, TX 76102
3	PFL Life Insurance Company
4	4333 Edgewood Rd. N.E. Cedar Rapids, IA 52499
5	Medico Life Insurance Company P.O. Box 3477
6	Omaha, NE 68103
7	Bankers United Life Assurance Company 4333 Edgewood Rd. N.E.
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9	Mi Me Asso
10	Chris Crawford
11	CHILD CLAWLOLD
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