

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

In the Matter of

**AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY**)
)
)

Docket No. 4628-MC

NAIC #92738

SUMMARY ORDER

Pursuant to the authority conferred upon the Commissioner of Insurance in K.S.A. 40-222, Sandy Praeger, the duly elected, qualified and serving Commissioner of Insurance hereby adopts the Kansas Insurance Department's Report of Market Conduct Examination of American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company ("American Equity"), as of December 31, 2012 (attached herein as Attachment A) by incorporating the same in its entirety with specific findings stated as follows. This Summary Order shall become effective as a Final Order, without further notice, upon the expiration of the 15 day period if no request for a hearing is made, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-542.

Findings of Fact

1. The Commissioner of Insurance has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to K.S.A. 40-222.
2. The Kansas Insurance Department ("Department") completed a targeted market conduct examination of American Equity. The period of examination was January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.
3. On or about November 7, 2013, the Examiner-in-Charge provided American Equity a draft of the Market Conduct Examination report ("Report") with a request for American Equity's response in the form of written comments, additions, or acceptance.

4. American Equity responded to the Report with written comments.
5. The Kansas Commissioner of Insurance has since fully reviewed the Report, which is attached herein as Attachment A.
6. Standard 1 of the Complaint Handling Standards reviews to ensure all complaints are recorded in the required format on the regulated entity's complaint register.
7. The complaint log contained numerous inaccuracies related to the dates received and dates of final disposition. Five of the initial complaints had an incorrect date on the log. There were enough errors in the dates to not accurately reflect the complaints.

Applicable Law

K.S.A. 40-222 states, in pertinent part:

(a) Whenever the commissioner of insurance deems it necessary but at least once every five years, the commissioner may make, or direct to be made, a financial examination of any insurance company in the process of organization, or applying for admission or doing business in this state. In addition, at the commissioner's discretion the commissioner may make, or direct to be made, a market regulation examination of any insurance company doing business in this state.

K.S.A. 40-2404 states, in pertinent part:

The following are hereby defined as unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance:

(10) Failure to maintain complaint handling procedures. Failure of any person, who is an insurer on an insurance policy, to maintain a complete record of all the complaints which it has received since the date of its last examination under K.S.A. 40-222, and amendments thereto; but no such records shall be required for complaints received prior to the effective date of this act. The record shall indicate the total number of complaints, their classification by line of insurance, the nature of each complaint, the disposition of the complaints, the date each complaint was originally received by the insurer and the date of final disposition of each complaint. For purposes of this subsection, "complaint" means any written communication primarily expressing a grievance related to the acts and practices set out in this section.

K.S.A. 40-2,125 states, in pertinent part:

(a) If the commissioner determines after notice and opportunity for a hearing that any person has engaged or is engaging in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of Kansas insurance statutes or any rule and regulation or order thereunder, the commissioner may in the exercise of discretion, order any one or more of the following:

(1) Payment of a monetary penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each and every act or violation, unless the person knew or reasonably should have known such person was in violation of the Kansas insurance statutes or any rule and regulation or order thereunder, in which case the penalty shall be not more than \$2,000 for each and every act or violation;

(3) that such person cease and desist from the unlawful act or practice and take such affirmative action as in the judgment of the commissioner will carry out the purposes of the violated or potentially violated provision.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the Findings of Fact enumerated in Paragraphs #1 through #7 and the Applicable Law cited above, **IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE:**

1. The Commissioner of Insurance has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to K.S.A. 40-222.
2. The Kansas Insurance Department's ("KID") Report of Market Conduct Examination of American Equity as of December 31, 2012 is herein adopted in its entirety.
3. Based on Finding of Fact #7, American Equity has violated K.S.A. 40-2404(10).
4. Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-2,125(a)(1), American Equity shall pay a monetary penalty of \$500.00 for the above-stated violation of K.S.A. 40-2404(10).
8. Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-2,125(a)(3), American Equity shall ensure all complaints are recorded in the required format on the American Equity's complaint register.

**IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 22nd DAY OF JANUARY 2014, IN THE CITY OF TOPEKA,
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE, STATE OF KANSAS.**



 /s/ Sandy Praeger_____

Sandy Praeger
Commissioner of Insurance

BY:

 /s/ John Wine_____

John Wine
General Counsel

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

American Equity is entitled to a hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537, the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. If American Equity desires a hearing, American Equity must file a written request for a hearing with:

John Wine, General Counsel
Kansas Insurance Department
420 S.W. 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

This request must be filed within fifteen (15) days from the date of service of this Summary Order. If American Equity requests a hearing, the Kansas Insurance Department will notify American Equity of the time and place of the hearing and information on the procedures, right of representation, and other rights of parties relating to the conduct of the hearing before the commencement of the same.

If a hearing is not requested in the time and manner stated above, this Summary Order shall become effective as a Final Order upon the expiration of time for requesting a hearing, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-613. In the event that American Equity files a petition for judicial review, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-613(e), the agency officer to be served on behalf of the Kansas Insurance Department is:

John Wine, General Counsel
Kansas Insurance Department
420 S.W. 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that he served the above and foregoing Order and Notice of Rights on this 22nd day of January 2014, by causing the same to be deposited in the United States Mail, registered mail with return-receipt requested postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company
Attn: Brenda Westvold, Vice President, Corporate Audit
6000 Westown Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50266

_ /s/ Susan Ellmaker _____
Susan Ellmaker
Staff Attorney