

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

In the Matter of the Kansas Resident)
Insurance Agent's License of)
TANNER M. SIERKS,) Docket No. **4725--SO**
NPN 16832936.)

SUMMARY ORDER
(Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909 and K.S.A. 77-537)

Pursuant to authority granted to the Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") by K.S.A. 40-4909, the Commissioner hereby proposes to find facts and revoke the resident insurance agent's license of Tanner M. Sierks ("Respondent") by way of Summary Order as provided by K.S.A. 77-537.

Findings of Fact

1. Following investigation, the Commissioner has no reason to believe that protection of the public interest requires the Commissioner to give notice and opportunity to participate to anyone other than Respondent.
2. Following investigation, the Commissioner finds evidence sufficient to support the following facts:
3. Respondent was licensed as a Kansas resident insurance agent on November 27, 2012, and has remained continuously licensed to date.
4. Respondent's legal and mailing address of record is 12408 W. 120th Ct., Apt. 1921, Overland Park, KS 66213-4876.
5. Respondent was appointed as an agent of the Farmers group of insurance Companies ("Farmers") until he resigned on or about November 10, 2014, during an investigation of two consumer complaints submitted to KID.
6. In a complaint filed October 18, 2014, V.L. and M.L. alleged that Respondent induced them to change auto and homeowners policies by quoting a rate that did not include three teenaged drivers, and he falsely assured them the teenagers did not need to be listed as drivers on the policies.

7. By letter dated October 22, 2014, and mailed to Respondent's address of record, a CAD representative requested Respondent's written response to the complaint by November 17, 2014.
8. When Respondent had not responded by November 18, 2014, a CAD representative mailed a follow-up letter and informed him that action would be taken if he failed to respond by November 25, 2014.
9. To date, Respondent has not responded, and the letters have not been returned.
10. Respondent also failed or refused to respond to the insurance company's inquiries about the complaint.
11. In a complaint filed October 14, 2014, G.M. alleged that Respondent misquoted auto policy premium, gave erroneous advice on a homeowners claim, and failed to respond to his repeated attempts to contact Respondent about these problems.
12. By letter dated October 16, 2014, and mailed to Respondent's address of record, a CAD representative mailed Respondent a copy of the complaint and asked him to respond to the allegations within 15 days.
13. When Respondent had not replied by November 5, 2014, the CAD representative mailed a follow-up letter directing Respondent to respond.
14. To date, Respondent has not replied, and the letters have not been returned.
15. By letter of December 10, 2014, addressed to Respondent at his mailing address of record, counsel for KID invited Respondent to reply in writing if he disputed the foregoing facts.
16. To date, Respondent has not replied, and the letter has not been returned; thus, the facts are deemed undisputed.

Applicable Law

17. K.S.A. 40-4909(a) provides, in relevant part:
"The commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke or refuse renewal of any license issued under this act if the commissioner finds that the applicant or license holder has: . . .
(7) Admitted to or been found to have committed any insurance unfair trade practice or fraud in violation of K.S.A. 40-2404, and amendments thereto.
(8) Used any fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practice, or demonstrated any incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the

conduct of business in this state or elsewhere.” K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-4909(a).

18. “Making false or fraudulent statements or representations on or relative to an application for an insurance policy, for the purpose of obtaining a fee, commission, money or other benefit from any insurer, agent, broker or individual” is an insurance unfair trade practice. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-2404(11).

19. In addition, the Commissioner may revoke any license issued under the Insurance Agents Licensing Act if the Commissioner finds that the interests of the insurer or the insurable interests of the public are not properly served under such license. K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-4909(b).

20. “Any action taken under this section which affects any license or imposes any administrative penalty shall be taken only after notice and an opportunity for hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedures act.” K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-4909(c).

21. “Whenever the commissioner imposes any administrative penalty or denies, suspends, revokes or refuses renewal of any license pursuant to subsection (a), any costs incurred as a result of conducting an administrative hearing authorized under the provisions of this section shall be assessed against the person who is the subject of the hearing or any business entity represented by such person who is the party to the matters giving rise to the hearing.” K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-4909(f).

Conclusions of Law

22. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over Respondent as well as the subject matter of this proceeding, and such proceeding is held in the public interest.

23. The Commissioner finds Respondent’s license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(a)(7) because Respondent has made false or fraudulent statements or representations on or relative to an application for an insurance policy, for the purpose of obtaining a fee, commission, money or other benefit from any insurer, agent, broker or individual, which is an insurance unfair trade practice as defined by K.S.A. 40-2404(11).

24. The Commissioner finds Respondent’s license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(a)(8) because Respondent has demonstrated a lack of competence and

trustworthiness in the conduct of his insurance business by failing to respond to requests for information from the consumers, the company, and KID.

25. The Commissioner thus finds that sufficient grounds exist for the revocation of Respondent's insurance agent license pursuant to K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 40-4909(a).

26. Finally, the Commissioner finds that Respondent's license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(b) because Respondent's license is not serving the interests of insurers or the insurable interests of the public.

27. Based on the facts and circumstances set forth herein, it appears that the use of summary proceedings in this matter is appropriate, in accordance with the provisions set forth in K.S.A. 77-537(a), in that the use of summary proceedings does not violate any provision of the law, the protection of the public interest does not require the KID to give notice and opportunity to participate to persons other than Respondent, and after investigation, KID believes in good faith that the allegations will be supported to the applicable standard of proof.

Policy to be Served

Before issuing an insurance agent license, the Commissioner must determine that the applicant is qualified and has not committed any act that would be grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation. K.S.A. 40-4905(b). Further, the Commissioner may revoke any license issued under the Insurance Agents Licensing Act if the Commissioner finds that the interests of the insurer or the insurable interests of the public are not properly served under the license. The following action is appropriate to promote the security and integrity of the insurance business and protect insurance consumers by licensing, or continuing to license, persons or entities to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance in the State of Kansas only if their conduct indicates they are both qualified and trustworthy.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE THEREFORE ORDERS that the Kansas resident insurance agent's license of **TANNER M. SIERKS** is hereby **REVOKED** and **TANNER M. SIERKS** shall **CEASE and DESIST** from the sale, solicitation, or negotiation of insurance, doing any act toward the sale, solicitation, or negotiation of insurance, and/or receiving compensation deriving from the sale,

solicitation, or negotiation of insurance in Kansas or on Kansas risks through business conducted on and after the effective date of this order.

It is further ordered, pursuant to KSA 77-415(b)(2)(A), that this order is designated by KID as precedent.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS __29th__ DAY OF DECEMBER 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 TO HEARING AND REVIEW

Within fifteen (15) days of the date of service of this Summary Order, Respondent may submit a written request for a hearing pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537 and K.S.A. 77-542. Any request for a hearing should be addressed to the following:

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

If a hearing is requested, the Kansas Insurance Department will serve notice of the time and place of the hearing and information on procedures, right of representation, and other rights of parties relating to the conduct of the hearing.

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. In the event Respondent 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 she served a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing **Summary Order** and accompanying **Notice of Rights** on this 29th day of December 2014 by causing the same to be placed in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

Tanner M. Sierks
12408 W. 120th Ct., Apt. 1921
Overland Park, KS 66213-4876

_/_s/ Brenda J. Clary_____

Brenda J. Clary
Staff Attorney