

AUG 15 2016

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Kansas Resident )  
Insurance Agent's License of )  
WILLIAM ERIC RICE, ) Docket No. 4889--SO  
NPN 6123695. )

**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 Kansas resident insurance agent's license of WILLIAM ERIC RICE ("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 granted a Kansas resident insurance agent license on May 7, 1993, and has been continuously so licensed to date.
4. Respondent is a resident of Wichita, Kansas.
5. Respondent's mailing address of record is 6700 W. Central Ave. Ste. 110, Wichita, KS 67212-6302.
6. Respondent was a registered securities representative from July 1992 until his voluntary termination on August 7, 2015.
7. On November 2, 2009, Respondent pled guilty to felony driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in Cowley County, Kansas, District Court.
8. To date, Respondent has not reported the conviction to KID.
9. A registered representative is required to report criminal charges and convictions, and from the date Respondent was charged until 2015, Respondent failed to update his Form U4 to reflect the felony charge.
10. Respondent falsely stated that he had no new disclosures to report in annual attestations on October 22, 2009, November 10, 2010, September 9, 2011, July 2012, June 11, 2013, and April 11, 2014.

11. Although Respondent no longer has an active registration or association with a FINRA member firm, on April 19, 2016, FINRA initiated action against Respondent for willful failure to report the felony conviction.

12. By letter of August 2, 2016, counsel for KID invited Respondent to reply in writing by August 3, 2016, if he disputed the statements of fact set out above.

13. To date, Respondent has not replied and the letter has not been returned; thus, the reported facts are deemed undisputed.

#### Applicable Law

14. 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: . . .

(2) Violated:

(A) Any provision of chapter 40 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or any rule and regulation promulgated thereunder;

. . .

(6) Been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony. . . .

(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. 2015 Supp. 40-4909(a).

15. K.A.R. §40-7-9(d) requires a licensed agent to report any criminal conviction to the Commissioner within 30 days.

16. 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. 2015 Supp. 40-4909(b).

17. “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. 2015 Supp. 40-4909(c).

18. “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. As used in this subsection, “costs” shall include witness fees, mileage allowances, any costs associated with the reproduction of documents which become a part of the hearing record and the expense of making a record of the hearing.” K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 40-4909(f).

19. A person whose license has been revoked or suspended may not be employed directly or indirectly by an insurance company and "may not perform any act toward the solicitation of or transaction of" insurance business in Kansas. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 40-4909(g).

### **Conclusions of Law**

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

21. The Commissioner finds that Respondent's license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(a)(2)(A) because Respondent violated K.A.R. §40-7-9(d) by failing to report his 2009 felony conviction within 30 days, and the violation continues to date.

22. The Commissioner finds that Respondent's license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(a)(6) because Respondent has been convicted of a felony.

23. The Commissioner finds that Respondent's license may be revoked pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4909(a)(8) because Respondent engaged in a "dishonest practice" by repeatedly denying having been convicted of a felony.

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

25. 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) and K.S.A. 40-4906. 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. K.S.A. 40-4909(b). Thus, the Commissioner is charged with 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 following action is appropriate to promote the security and integrity of the insurance business and protect insurance consumers.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE THEREFORE ORDERS that the Kansas resident insurance agent's license of WILLIAM ERIC RICE is hereby REVOKED, and WILLIAM ERIC RICE 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 SO ORDERED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2016, IN THE CITY OF TOPEKA, COUNTY OF SHAWNEE, STATE OF KANSAS.



Ken Selzer, CPA  
Commissioner of Insurance

BY:

John Wine  
Assistant Commissioner

**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:

Diane Minear, General Counsel  
Kansas Insurance Department  
420 S.W. 9<sup>th</sup> 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

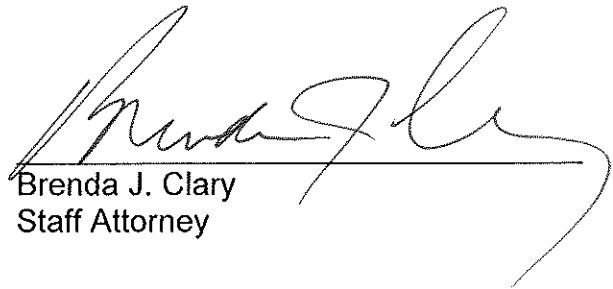
**time for requesting a hearing.** In the event Respondent files a Petition for Judicial Review, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-613(e), the agency officer to be served on behalf of the Kansas Insurance Department is

Diane Minear, General Counsel  
Kansas Insurance Department  
420 S.W. 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2016 by causing the same to be placed in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

William Eric Rice  
6700 W. Central Ave., Ste. 110  
Wichita, KS 67212-6302

  
Brenda J. Clary  
Staff Attorney