BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application for a)	
Kansas Resident Insurance Producer's)	
License of CHRISTI HUBBART)	Docket No. 102863
NPN # 20848338)	

ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR A HEARING (Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4905 and K.S.A. 77-501 et seq.)

The Kansas Insurance Department ("Department") denied an application for a Kansas resident insurance producer's license ("Application") submitted by Christi Hubbart ("Applicant") by a Decision on License Application ("Denial Letter") dated December 8, 2023. Applicant submitted a request for a hearing after the deadline to request a hearing expired. The Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") finds that the evidence establishes the Applicant's request for a hearing was untimely and therefore denies the Applicant's request.

Findings of Fact

1. The Applicant was notified in the Denial Letter as follows:

You have a right to a hearing before the Assistant Commissioner of Insurance to appeal the staff decision to deny your application for a license. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537 and K.S.A. 77-542, within fifteen (15) days (with an additional three (3) days for service) of the date of this letter, you may submit a written request for an appeal. A form which you may use for this purpose is enclosed. [Emphasis added.]

- 2. The Denial Letter further notified Applicant that in the absence of a request for a hearing "in the time and manner stated" [Emphasis added] the denial would become effective as a Final Order.
- 3. Applicant's deadline to submit a request for a hearing expired on December 26, 2024.
- 4. Applicant submitted the form requesting a hearing via email on March 6, 2024.

Applicable Law

- 5. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-526(a), the Assistant Commissioner of Insurance acting on behalf of the Commissioner of Insurance as the agency head, as provided in K.S.A. 77-547, is empowered to render a Final Order.
- 6. Pursuant to K.S.A. 40-4905(g), "[a]ny applicant whose application for a license is denied shall be given an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act ["KAPA"]."
- 7. Under K.S.A. 77-542(a), "[a]ny notice of agency action resulting in a right to request a hearing pursuant to the Kansas administrative procedure act must include a statement informing the person that a written request for a hearing must be filed with the agency within 15 days of service of the notice."
- 8. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531(b), when a party has the right to request a hearing within a prescribed period of time after service of the notice and the notice is sent by mail or electronic means, three days shall be added to the prescribed period.
- 9. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(b)(2), "[t]he state agency shall serve each party with a copy of the order in a summary proceeding in the manner prescribed by K.S.A. 77-531, and amendments thereto. The order shall include...notice of the time and manner for requesting a hearing on the order, as provided in K.S.A. 77-542."
- 10. Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537(b)(3), a summary order shall include "notice that, if a hearing is not requested, the order shall become effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing." [Emphasis added.]

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- 11. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the Applicant as well as the subject matter of this proceeding.
- 12. The Assistant Commissioner of Insurance, as the Presiding Officer, is acting on behalf of the Commissioner of Insurance as the agency head and is empowered to render a Final Order.
- 13. Applicant was notified by the Denial Letter that he had fifteen (15) days (with an additional three (3) days for service) to request a hearing to appeal the decision to deny her license application. Applicant was further notified by the letter that failure to appeal the decision would result in the letter becoming effective as a final order. The Presiding Officer finds that the notice of the time and manner in which to request a hearing on the summary order denying the Applicant's license application provided by Department to the Applicant met the requirements of KAPA.
- 14. The Presiding Officer finds the hearing request submitted by Applicant on March 6, 2024, was untimely.
- 15. The Decision on License Application became a Final Order when the Applicant did not request a hearing within the time specified in the notification included in the Denial Letter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE THAT Applicant submitted an untimely request for a hearing. The untimely request for a hearing is **DENIED**. The Decision on License Application dated December 8, 2023, became a **Final** Order as a matter of law when Applicant failed to timely request an administrative hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS MAY OF MARCH 2024, IN THE CITY OF TOPEKA, COUNTY OF SHAWNEE, STATE OF KANSAS.



VICKI SCHMIDT COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

BY: /

Barbara W. Rankin Assistant Commissioner

Presiding Officer

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-601 through K.S.A. 77-631, Applicant is entitled to judicial review, if this Order Denying Request for Hearing becomes a Final Order. The petition for judicial review must be filed within thirty (30) days of service of the date the Proposed Default Order becomes a Final Order (plus three [3] days for service by mail pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531). In the event Applicant 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:

Justin L. McFarland, General Counsel Kansas Insurance Department 1300 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the above-and-foregoing Order Denying Request for a Hearing upon Applicant by causing a copy of the same to be deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, on the day of March 2024, addressed to the following:

Christi Hubbart

Applicant

And hand-delivered to the following:

Kimberley Davenport Megrail Senior Attorney Kansas Insurance Department 1300 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604 Counsel for the Kansas Insurance Department

Mindy Forrer
Legal Assistant