

The State of New Hampshire Insurance Department 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14 Concord, NH 03301

David J. Bettencourt Commissioner Keith E. Nyhan Deputy Commissioner

January 31, 2024

VIA EMAIL: <u>sgianitsis@mooreagencies.com;abreugreg3@gmail.com</u> VIA FIRST-CLASS & CERTIFIED MAIL: 7011 2000 0001 8842 8251

Gregory Abreu 251 Kimball Street Manchester, NH 03102

Re: Order to Show Cause & Notice of Hearing, Docket No.: INS No. 24-007-EP

Dear Mr. Abreu,

Enclosed please find an Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing issued by Commissioner D.J. Bettencourt.

A hearing in this matter has been scheduled on March 5, 2024 at 1:30 PM at the New Hampshire Insurance Department located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14, Concord, NH. You may find driving directions and additional information on our website at http://www.nh.gov/insurance

Sincerely,

polo

Joshua S. Hilliard, Esq. Compliance and Enforcement Counsel New Hampshire Insurance Department Telephone: (603) 271-2482 Email: joshua.s.hilliard@ins.nh.gov

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

In Re: Gregory Abreu Docket No.: Ins. No. 24-007-EP

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE <u>AND</u> NOTICE OF HEARING

The New Hampshire Insurance Department ("NHID") orders Gregory Abreu ("Respondent") to show cause why the New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner should not levy an administrative fine against him and revoke his insurance producer license. In support of the Order to Show Cause and pursuant to RSA 541-A:31, RSA 400-A:17 *et seq.* and Ins Chapter 200, the NHID states as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. Respondent is a NH domiciled insurance producer in Manchester, New Hampshire, who holds an insurance producer license in the lines of Accident and Health or Sickness and Life.
- 2. On or about December 11, 2023, the NHID received a report from an insurance carrier stating that Respondent's own cell phone number had been used to electronically sign 3 client applications for life insurance. In addition, one of the clients complained that they had not authorized their signature to any application documents.
- 3. That carrier requested a written response from Respondent; he did not respond. The company then terminated Respondent's appointment for cause.
- 4. On or about December 18, 2023, the NHID sent a request via e-mail pursuant to NH RSA 400-A:16 to Respondent requesting a narrative explaining the transactions in which his cell phone number was used to electronically sign an application for three clients. Respondent did not respond to that request.
- 5. On or about January 4, 2024, the NHID sent a request via e-mail and mail pursuant to NH RSA 400-A:16 to Respondent requesting a narrative explaining the transactions in which his cell phone number was used to electronically sign an application for three clients. Respondent did not respond to that request.
- 6. To date, Respondent has not provided a response to either request by the NHID.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

- 7. Whether Respondent violated NH RSA 402-J:12 I (h) by using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating untrustworthiness or misrepresentation when he used his cell phone to electronically sign applications for clients without their authorization.
- 8. Whether Respondent violated NH RSA 400-A:16, II by failing to respond within 10 working days to the NHID's December 18, 2023, request.
- 9. Whether Respondent violated NH RSA 400-A:16, II by failing to respond within 10 working days to the NHID's January 4, 2024, request.
- 10. The NHID reserves the right to amend this statement of issues upon reasonable notice to the Commissioner (or his designated Representative) and the Respondent.

INSURANCE LAWS VIOLATED BY RESPONDENT

- 11. The NHID maintains the Respondent violated the following New Hampshire insurance law statutes: NH RSA 402-J:12, I (h), NH RSA 400-A:16, II.
- 12. The NHID reserves the right to amend this list of insurance laws violated by the Respondent upon reasonable notice to the Commissioner (or his designated Representative) and the Respondent.

PENALTY REQUESTED

- 13. In the event that the Hearing Officer determines after an evidentiary hearing that the NHID sustained its burden of proof with respect to the allegations of fact and violations of law outlined above, the NHID requests that the Hearing Officer impose the following sanctions on the Respondent:
 - a. Order the Respondent to pay a penalty of \$12,500; and
 - b. Order that the Respondent's license in this state be permanently revoked.
 - 14. The NHID reserves the right to amend penalty requested upon reasonable notice to the Commissioner (or his designated Representative) and the Respondent.

NOTICE OF HEARING

- 15. An adjudicatory proceeding shall be commenced for the purpose of resolving the issues articulated above pursuant to RSA 541-A:31, RSA 400-A:17, *et seq.*, and Ins 200. To the extent that the Department's rules do not address an issue of policy or procedures, the Department shall apply the N.H. Department of Justice Rules, Part 800.
- 16. The Respondent shall appear at Department on March 5, 2024, at 1:30 PM at the Department's office located at 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14, in Concord New Hampshire to participate in this adjudicatory proceeding and, if deemed appropriate, be subject to sanctions pursuant to RSA 400-A:15, III. Respondent's failure to appear at the time and place specified above may result in the hearing being held *in absentia* and sanctions may be imposed without further notice or an opportunity to be heard.
- 17. Steve M. Notinger, Esq. is appointed to act as Hearing Officer in this matter with all the authority within the scope of RSA 400-A:19 and Ins 203.01.
- 18. Sandra Barlow shall serve as clerk to the Hearing Officer. The parties should direct all communications to Ms. Barlow, whose contact information is:

Sandra Barlow, Clerk New Hampshire Insurance Department 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14 Concord, NH 03301 Tel: (603) 271-2033 Fax: (603)271-1406 Email: sandra.l.barlow@ins.nh.gov

- 19. Respondent has the right to be represented by a lawyer in this proceeding. However, Respondent shall bear the cost of retaining said lawyer. Should Respondent elect to retain a lawyer, his lawyer shall file a Notice of Appearance with Ms. Barlow, and said lawyer should do so at the earliest possible date. A copy of the NHID's Notice of Appearance form is enclosed with this Order.
- 20. Any party may request a transcript of the proceeding. The party requesting a transcript of the proceedings shall file a written request for a certified court

reporter with the Hearing Officer at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date. The costs incurred for the services of a certified court reporter shall be borne by the requesting party.

- 21. Joshua Hilliard, Esq. shall serve as staff advocate representing the interests of the NHID.
- 22. All routine procedural inquiries may be made by contacting Sandra Barlow, Hearing Clerk, New Hampshire Insurance Department, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14, Concord NH 03301, (603) 271-2033, but that all other communications with the Hearing Officer and the Commissioner shall be in writing and filed as provided above. *Ex parte* communications are forbidden by statute and the Department's regulations.
- 23. A copy of this hearing notice shall be served upon Respondent by certified mail addressed to the mailing address on file with New Hampshire Insurance Department. *See*, RSA 400-A:14.

It is SO ORDERED.

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

1/30/24 Date:

Divid. Bettercourt Insurance Commissioner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing was sent this date by first-class mail, postage prepaid, and by certified mail, return receipt requested to Respondent at 251 Kimball Street, Manchester, NH 03102 and <u>sgianitsis@mooreagencies.com</u> and <u>abreugreg3@gmail.com</u>, the mailing and e-mail addresses the Respondent has on file with the NHID.

Date: 1/30/24

Joshua S. Hilliard, Esq. Compliance & Enforcement Counsel