



BEFORE THE IOWA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF)	Division Case No. 117203
)	
ALVIN JOSEPH BRIDEAU,)	DEFAULT ORDER, FINDINGS OF
NPN 18005697,)	FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
DOB 12/18/XXXX,)	AND ORDER
)	
Respondent.)	

The Commissioner has taken up for consideration the Division’s motion for default order, filed on September 19, 2023, filed by Joseph Fraioli as the attorney representing the Iowa Insurance Division (“Division”). Brideau did not file an answer to the Statement of Charges or provide a timely response to the Division’s Motion for Default, so the Division’s Motion for Default was sustained and the Commissioner entered judgment in favor of the Division against Brideau in an interlocutory order of default on October 10, 2023. The Division and Respondent Alvin J. Brideau (“Brideau”) subsequently filed a Joint Stipulation of Penalties on October 24, 2023.

I. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. The Commissioner of Insurance, Douglas M. Ommen, directly and through his designees, administers and enforces Iowa Code chapter 522B—Licensing of Insurance Producers pursuant to Iowa Code § 505.8.
2. Brideau is an individual with a last-known residence address of 1090 NW 66th Terrace, Margate, Florida 33063.
3. Brideau was licensed in the state of Iowa as a nonresident insurance producer from August 17, 2016, until his licensed expired on December 31, 2022. Brideau is licensed under National Producer Number 18005697.

4. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 505.28, Brideau consented to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Insurance by committing acts governed by chapter 522B.

5. From on or about April 16, 2019, to present, Brideau engaged in acts and practices within the state of Iowa constituting cause for probation, suspension, or revocation of his insurance producer license; cease and desist orders; and civil penalties or other relief under Iowa Code chapters 505, 507B, 522B, and rules adopted pursuant to these chapters.

FINDINGS OF FACT

6. Brideau applied for a nonresident insurance producer license with the Division by submitting through the National Insurance Producer Registry a Uniform Application for Individual Producer License (“Uniform Application”). In submitting the Uniform Application, Brideau designated the Commissioner as an agent for service of process.

7. The Division issued Brideau a license as a nonresident insurance producer on August 17, 2016, and assigned to Brideau National Producer Number 18005697.

8. Brideau was appointed as an insurance producer for Freedom Life Insurance Company of America (“FLICA”) from July 8, 2016, to November 1, 2022. FLICA is a Texas based life insurance company, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of USHEALTH Group, Inc.

9. FLICA sales agents receive commission based on a percentage of premiums paid by customers. FLICA also provides advance commissions—a discretionary loan paid to agents on a weekly basis on the expectation of future commission earnings. Receipt of an advance commission creates debt, and an agent’s future commission earnings are used to pay off the debt.

10. In 2022, FLICA performed an audit of Brideau’s business after receiving complaints from several of Brideau’s clients who complained that FLICA had erroneously charged their bank accounts without their authorization.

11. FLICA discovered that between 2019 and 2022, Brideau used banking information of existing FLICA customers when completing at least twelve (12) new applications for insurance, resulting in the existing customers being billed for policies they did not purchase. After Brideau received the advance commission on the new sales, he withdrew those applications but kept the commission. FLICA was unable to verify the identities of any of these new customers.

12. In September 2022, FLICA opened an investigation into Brideau's sales portfolio. FLICA confirmed that they paid Brideau advance commissions on the sales in question.

13. Brideau told FLICA investigators that, with respect to the applicants in question, Brideau met with the applicants via telephone and presented the available policies, usually through a webinar. Brideau claimed he entered the personal and banking information communicated by the applicants directly into each application.

14. On November 1, 2022, FLICA terminated Brideau's appointment for cause due to fraudulent activity.

15. FLICA reimbursed consumers for any erroneous charges and bank expenses resulting from Brideau's conduct.

Division Communication Attempts

16. On November 9, 2022, a Division investigator emailed a Request for Information ("RFI") to Brideau via four email addresses: two (2) provided by Brideau and noted in his licensing record, including ajbrideau.health@gmail.com, and two (2) additional email addresses obtained through a search of public records. The letter directed Brideau to contact the investigator by November 21, 2022. The Division received no indication that the emails failed to be delivered.

17. On November 11, 2022, Brideau responded to the Division's email from ajbrideau.health@gmail.com. Brideau requested additional time to respond to the Division's RFI.

18. On November 14, 2022, the Division investigator responded by email to ajbrideau.health@gmail.com denying Brideau's request and confirming a response deadline of November 21, 2022. The Division received no indication that the email failed to be delivered.

19. Brideau did not respond to the first RFI by the requested deadline.

20. On November 28, 2022, the Division investigator emailed a second RFI to Brideau at ajbrideau.health@gmail.com. The letter directed Brideau to contact the investigator by December 12, 2022. The Division received no indication that the email failed to be delivered.

21. Brideau did not respond to the second RFI by the requested deadline.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Count 1: Failure to Cooperate

22. Under Iowa Code § 522B.11(1)(p), a license may be subject to probation, suspension, or revocation and civil penalties may be levied, as provided in Iowa Code § 522B.17, for failing or refusing to cooperate in an investigation.

23. Brideau failed to cooperate with an investigation by the Division into his termination for cause from FLICA due to his fraudulent activity.

24. Although Brideau initially responded to the Division's first RFI asking for an extension of time to respond, Brideau failed to further communicate with the Division following the denial of his request.

25. Brideau's acts and practices violate Iowa Code § 522B.11(1)(p) subjecting Brideau to probation, suspension, or revocation of Brideau's insurance producer license, the imposition of a

civil penalty, an order requiring Brideau to cease and desist from engaging in such acts or practices, the imposition of costs of the investigation and prosecution of the matter, and any other corrective action the Commissioner deems necessary and appropriate pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 522B.11, 522B.17, and 505.8.

ORDERS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Alvin J. Brideau is in default, pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code rule 191—3.22, and that judgment shall be entered against Brideau in favor of the Division.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the powers granted to the Commissioner of Insurance by Iowa Code chapters 5078B and 522B:

- A. Alvin J. Brideau’s nonresident insurance producer license is immediately revoked pursuant to Iowa Code § 522B.11;
- B. Alvin J. Brideau is prohibited from selling, soliciting, or negotiating insurance, offering to the public advise, counsel, or services with regard to insurance, or transacting any insurance business in this state pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 505.8(10), 507B.7, and 522B.17 without an insurance producer license; and
- C. These orders may be enforced under Iowa Code chapter 507B and 522B, including but not limited to, Iowa Code § 507B.8 and 522B.17(3).

SO ORDERED on this 24th day of October, 2023.



Douglas M. Ommen
Iowa Insurance Commissioner

