# STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATION

In the Matter of:

JOSHUA MOSES BEKHOR, an individual,

and

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IMMEDIATE INSURANCE SERVICES, A California corporation,

Respondents.

Case No. INS-23-0055

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, AND ORDER ASSESSING CIVIL PENALTIES, ENTERED BY

On November 30, 2023, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the State of Oregon ("Director"), acting by and through the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation ("Division") and in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes ("ORS") 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 737, 742, 743, 743A, 743B, 744, 746, 748 and 750 ("Insurance Code"), served an Order to Cease and Desist, Proposed Order Assessing Civil Penalties, and Notice or Right to an Administrative Hearing ("Notice") on Joshua Moses Bekhor ("Bekhor") and Immediate Insurance Services ("IIS").

The Notice offered Bekhor and IIS an opportunity for a hearing if requested within 20 days of the Notice. The Notice further informed Bekhor and IIS that if a hearing were not conducted because Bekhor and IIS did not timely request a hearing or otherwise defaulted, then the designated portion of the Division's file and all materials submitted by Bekhor and IIS in this case would automatically become part of the contested case record for the purpose of proving a prima facie case.

Neither Bekhor nor IIS (collectively "Respondents") submitted a request for hearing to the Director, and the Director did not conduct a hearing.

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Division of Financial Regula Labor and Industries Buildin 350 Winter Street IV. Suite Salem, OR 97301-3881 Telephone: (503) 378-4387



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The Director finds that the record of this proceeding proves a prima facie case.

Now, therefore, after considering the relevant portions of the Division's file relating to this matter, the Director finds and orders as follows.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Director FINDS that:

- 1. On knowledge and belief, Bekhor is a California resident. His last known address is 8712 Gregory Way, #401 Los Angeles, CA, 90035.
- 2. IIS is a California corporation with a principal place of business at 8712 Gregory Way, #401 Los Angeles, CA, 90035. IIS is wholly owned and operated by Bekhor.
- 3. Neither Bekhor nor IIS has ever been licensed to do business as an insurance producer in Oregon.
- 4. Bekhor was licensed as an insurance producer in California from January 10, 2018 through December 17, 2021. The State of California revoked Bekhor's California insurance producer license effective December 17, 2021 for "fraudulent practices or acts" and "diverting funds that were to be held in compliance with the [California] Insurance Code," among other violations.
  - 5. Bekhor's NAIC national producer number is 18705843.

#### The BEC Complaint

- 6. On May 1, 2023, the Division received a complaint from an Oregon consumer who will be identified for purposes of this Order as EW.
- 7. EW is the owner of a company that will be identified for purposes of this Order as BEC. BEC is a company organized under the laws of the State of Oregon and with a principal place of business in Oregon. EW is also an Oregon resident.
- 8. EW reported that, beginning in May of 2020, IIS and Bekhor purported to sell EW a Business Owner's Policy for BEC. EW further advised that Bekhor had charged EW \$650 up front every year and between \$150 and \$200 each month in purported premiums.



9. EW further repo	rted that in October of 2022, EW purchased an additional \$5
million of product liability i	nsurance through Respondents, and that Respondents charged
EW a further \$4,185 for this	s additional coverage.

- 10. EW stated that Respondents provided EW with documents that purported to be Certificates of Insurance (COIs) for each of the policies that he purchased.
- 11. EW advised that in April of 2023, he was contacted by an investigator from the Special Investigations Unit of an insurance carrier ("the Insurer SIU"). The Insurer SIU informed EW that the Insurer SIU believed Respondents were defrauding EW, and that Respondents had either never purchased the insurance policies that EW had paid for, or had purchased much smaller policies from Insurance companies other than the ones listed in the COIs and had kept the difference in the premiums.
- 12. EW subsequently contacted each of the companies from whom he had been led to believe Respondents had purchased insurance on behalf of EW and BEC. In each instance EW learned that Respondents had never purchased the policies EW believed he was paying for and had received COIs from Respondents for.
- 13. As a result of Respondents' actions, EW and BEC went without insurance coverage from at least May of 2020 through April of 2023. Moreover, EW paid Respondents \$11,500 in purported premiums for insurance policies that Respondents never acquired.

## The SISI Report

- 14. On October 11, 2023, the Division received a report from the Insurer SIU concerning additional activity by Respondents in Oregon.
- 15. The Insurer SIU reported that in February of 2020, Bekhor sold a property insurance policy to a company that will be identified for purposes of this Order as SISI. SISI is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oregon with a principal place of business in Oregon.

16. The premium for the policy was advanced by ETI Financial, a Florida-based
premium finance company ("ETI"). Respondents debited SISI's bank account—ostensibly
to repay ETI for the advance of the premium amount. Respondents provided SISI with a
COI indicating that their insurer was Pacific Indemnity.

- 17. Despite debiting funds from SISI's account, Respondents failed to remit payment to ETI. As a result, SISI's insurance policy was cancelled for nonpayment effective December 20, 2020.
- 18. SISI did not receive a copy of the cancellation notice. On knowledge and belief, Respondents provided ETI with an incorrect address for SISI, and as a result the notice was never delivered.
- 19. On February 14, 2021, the roof of a warehouse owned by SISI collapsed under the weight of snow and ice. SISI suffered \$100,000 worth of property damage as a result of this incident, and made a claim for its losses against its property insurance policy.
- 20. Pacific Indemnity denied SISI's claim on the basis that SISI's policy had been cancelled for nonpayment at the time of the loss.
- 21. As a result of Respondents' actions, SISI lost its insurance coverage in December of 2020 and unknowingly went without insurance coverage from December of 2020 through May of 2021. During this time SISI suffered \$100,000 of uninsured losses.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Director CONCLUDES that:

#### Unlicensed Insurance Business

- 22. Pursuant to ORS 744.053, no person may "sell, solicit or negotiate insurance in this state" unless that person is licensed in Oregon as an Insurance Producer.
- 23. Respondents violated ORS 744.053 by selling, or purporting to sell, insurance policies to EW and BEC.

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24. Respondents violated ORS 744.053 by selling, or purporting to sell, insurance policies to SISI.

# Use of Device, Scheme, or Artifice to Defraud

- 25. Pursuant to ORS 746.075(2)(e), no person may employ "any device, scheme or artifice to defraud" in connection with an insurance transaction.
- 26. Respondents violated ORS 746.075(2)(e) by issuing COIs that misrepresented the insurance policies that Respondents obtained on behalf of EW and BEC.
- 27. Respondents violated ORS 746.075(2)(e) by issuing COIs that misrepresented the insurance policies that Respondents obtained on behalf of SISI.

# Obtaining Money or Property by Misrepresentation

- 28. Pursuant to ORS 746.075(2)(f), no person may obtain "money or property by means of any untrue statement" in connection with an insurance transaction.
- 29. Respondents violated ORS 746.075(2)(f) by collecting moneys from EW and BEC as purported premiums for insurance policies that Respondents either did not obtain or substantially misrepresented to EW and BEC.
- 30. Respondents violated ORS 746.075(2)(f) by debiting moneys from SISI's bank account under the guise it intended to send those funds to ETI as repayment on the premium finance amount.

# Misappropriating Premiums

- 31. Pursuant to ORS 746.120, no person shall willfully collect any sum as premium or charge for insurance which is not then provided or is not in due course to be provided subject to acceptance of the risk by the insurer, under an insurance policy issued by an insurer in conformity to the Insurance Code.
- 32. Respondents violated ORS 746.120 by appropriating for personal use the moneys collected as purported insurance premiums from EW and BEC.

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purported insurance premiums that Respondent did not remit to ETI. Cease and Desist Authority

Respondents violated ORS 746.120 by collecting moneys from SISI as

34. Pursuant to ORS 731.252(1), whenever the Director has reason to believe that any person has been engaged or is engaging or is about to engage in any violation of the Insurance Code, the Director may issue an order to discontinue or desist from such violation or threatened violation.

# Civil Penalties Authority

35. Pursuant to ORS 731.988(1), the Director may assess civil penalties in the amount of \$1,000 per violation against any person who violates the Insurance Code.

### **ORDERS**

Now therefore, the Director issues the following Orders:

# Cease and Desist

36. As authorized by ORS 731.252(1), the Director ORDERS Respondents to CEASE AND DESIST from violating any provision of the Insurance Code or the administrative rules promulgated thereunder, including but not limited to, engaging in any insurance business in Oregon without the proper licensure, or engaging in any further fraudulent conduct described in this Order.

#### Civil Penalty Authority

- 37. As authorized by ORS 731.988(1), the Director hereby ORDERS that CIVIL PENALTIES be assessed against Respondents, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$8,000 as follows:
  - \$2,000 for violating ORS 744.053 in two instances, as described in (a) Paragraphs 22-24 above;
  - (b) \$2,000 for violating ORS 746.075(2)(e) in two instances, as described in Paragraphs 25-27 above;

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