

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

In the Matter of

Case No. INS-20-0013

CHANEL RIDGE,

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST,
FINAL ORDER REVOKING LICENSE,
FINAL ORDER ASSESSING CIVIL
PENALTY, AND CONSENT TO
ENTRY OF ORDER

Respondent.

The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services for the State of Oregon (“Director”), acting in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes (“ORS”) chapters 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 737, 742, 743, 743A, 743B, 744, 746, 748 and 750 (“Insurance Code”) and specifically ORS 744.074, has conducted an investigation into the insurance related activities Chanel Ridge (“Respondent”).

Respondent submits to the Director’s jurisdiction and agrees to waive her rights to notice and an administrative hearing that arise under ORS 183.415 and wishes to resolve this matter by consenting to entry of this Final Order.

Now, therefore, as evidenced by the signature(s) subscribed to this Order, Respondent hereby CONSENTS to entry of this Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Director FINDS that:

1. Respondent is an Oregon resident with a last recorded business address at 1826 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, OR 97527. Respondent is licensed as an individual insurance producer in Oregon.

2. On October 11, 2019, Respondent’s former employer reported to the Division by voice mail that Respondent had been writing fraudulent checks on the employer’s business account. In further email correspondence on October 28, 2019, Respondent’s

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1 former employer provided the Division with five copies of checks to Respondent written
2 on the employer's company account. Respondent's former employer stated that
3 Respondent had stolen the checks, forged his signature, and used a mobile deposit
4 application to deposit funds in her personal bank account. The total amount of
5 misappropriated funds was \$6,182.05. The Division initiated an investigation based upon
6 the former employer's report.

7 3. On January 7, 2020, the Division sent notice to Respondent of the investigation
8 by letter. The Division also provided copies to Respondent of the five allegedly forged
9 checks and requested a written response from Respondent on or before February 4, 2020.

10 4. On February 3, 2020, Respondent replied to the Division by email and admitted
11 that she had forged the checks in question. Respondent stated that she knew she would
12 likely be losing her insurance producer license. Respondent also advised that she was
13 repaying the misappropriated moneys back to her former employer over time and had so
14 far repaid \$3,600 of the \$6,182.05. On February 4, 2020, Respondent's former employer
15 confirmed the accuracy of these statements.

16 5. Respondent's former employer stated in his correspondence with the Division
17 that he had reported the actions described in Paragraph 2 above to law enforcement and
18 was told he could pursue redress as a civil matter. Respondent has not been charged or
19 convicted of any crime as a result of actions described in Paragraphs 2 through 4 above.

20 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

21 The Director CONCLUDES that:

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

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1 7. Pursuant to ORS 744.074(1)(h), the Director may place a licensee on probation
2 or suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew an insurance producer license and may take
3 other actions authorized by the Insurance Code in lieu thereof or in addition thereto for
4 using “fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices.”

5 8. Pursuant to ORS 731.988(1), in addition to any other penalty provided by law,
6 an individual insurance producer who violates any provision of the Insurance Code is
7 subject to forfeiture and payment of a civil penalty to the Department in an amount of not
8 more than \$1,000 for each offense.

9 9. Respondent admitted to engaging in fraudulent and dishonest practices in
10 violation of ORS 744.074(1)(h) by forging five checks from her employer and depositing
11 misappropriated funds from her employer into her bank account for her personal use.

12 10. Because Respondent’s actions described above violated the Insurance Code,
13 Respondent is subject to a civil penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

14 **ORDERS**

15 The Director ISSUES the following ORDERS:

16 11. Pursuant to ORS 731.252(1) the Director hereby ORDERS Respondent, and all
17 entities owned or controlled by Respondent, her successors and assignees, to CEASE AND
18 DESIST from violating ORS 744.074(1)(h).

19 12. The Director, pursuant to ORS 744.074(1)(h), hereby REVOKES Respondent’s
20 license.

21 13. Pursuant to ORS 731.988(1), the Director hereby imposes CIVIL PENALTIES
22 against Respondent in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for stealing five checks
23 from her employer and using those checks to deposit misappropriated funds into her bank
24 account for personal use, in violation of ORS 744.074(1)(h).

25 14. The Director hereby suspends payment of the \$5,000 CIVIL PENALTY for a
26 period of two years from the effective date of this order, provided Respondent completes

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1 repayment of the remaining \$3,280 to her former employer on or before the 180th day after
2 the effective date of this order.

3 15. The suspended CIVIL PENALTY will be waived two years from the effective
4 date of this Order, provided Respondent has complied with the forgoing Order terms and
5 does not commit any further violations of the Insurance Code. The Director reserves the
6 right to immediately assess and collect the suspended civil penalty upon a determination
7 that Respondent has violated any term of this order or has committed any further violation
8 of the Insurance Code.

9 16. This Order is binding upon Respondent's successors and assigns.

10 17. This Order is a "Final Order" under ORS 183.310(6)(b). Subject to that
11 provision, the entry of this Order does not limit other remedies that are available to the
12 Director under Oregon law.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated this 9th day of March, 2020.

15 Louis Savage , Acting Director
16 Department of Consumer and Business Services

17
18 /s/ Dorothy Bean
19 Dorothy Bean, Chief of Enforcement
20 Division of Financial Regulation

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CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

I, Chanel Ridge, state I have read the foregoing Order and that I know and fully understand the contents hereof; that the factual allegations stated herein are true and correct; that I have been advised of my right to a hearing, and that I have been advised of my right to be represented by counsel in this matter; that I voluntarily consent to the entry of this Order without any force or duress, expressly waiving any right to a hearing in this matter, as well as any rights to administrative or judicial review of this Order; that I understand that the Director reserves the right to take further actions against me to enforce this Order or to take appropriate action upon discovery of other violations of the Oregon Insurance Code by me; and that I will fully comply with the terms and conditions stated herein.

I understand that this Order is a public document.

/s/ Chanel Ridge

Signature

State of Oregon

County of Jackson

Signed or attested before me on this 2nd day of March, 2020

by Chanel Ridge.

/s/ Robert A. Gurney, JR.

Notary Public

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