STATE OF MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF LESLIE J. HODGES: ACTION AGAINST PRODUCER LICENSE No. 10077224

ORDER

THIS CAUSE came on for hearing before the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Mississippi (hereinafter "Commissioner"), by and through his specially designated appointee (hereinafter "Hearing Officer"), in the Office of the Commissioner, 10th Floor, Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39205, on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., pursuant to a Notice of Hearing and Statement of Charges mailed to Mr. Hodges (hereinafter "Respondent") on January 5, 2010. The Commissioner, by and through the designated Hearing Officer, having heard and considered all of the testimony and evidence produced by the parties herein, makes the following findings:

Authority

The hearing herein was held pursuant to the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-51, et seq. (Supp. 2008), providing for the licensing of insurance producers by the Mississippi Insurance Department, and specifically under Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-71 (Supp. 2008), providing for disciplinary actions against producers.

Notice and Hearing

- 1. On or about January 5, 2010, the Commissioner, gave notice to Respondent of the Statement of Charges, and Proposed Action.
- 2. Pursuant to said notice, a hearing was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

3. Respondent appeared at said hearing and gave his testimony.

Findings of Fact

- 1. Respondent did improperly withhold, misappropriate or convert monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business. Specifically, the Respondent accepted premiums, between November and December of 2007, totaling around \$3,230.17 for coverage of insurance and did not remit the premium payments to Union National Life Insurance Company ("Union National").
- 2. Respondent did pay Union National back the balance owed, \$3,230.17, on or around March 19th of 2009.

Conclusions of Law

- 1. Respondent's failure to remit premiums to Union National constitutes a violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-71(1)(d) (Supp. 2008) by improperly withholding, misappropriating or converting monies or properties received in the course of doing insurance business.
- Furthermore, Respondent's conduct constitutes a violation of Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-71(1)
 (h) (Supp. 2008) by using fraudulent, coercive or dishonest practices or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere.
- 3. Said violations subject Respondent to the various disciplinary actions set forth in Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-71 (Supp. 2008).

<u>Order</u>

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Respondent's Producer License application, number 151986, is hereby approved and Respondent's License Number 10077224 be suspended for 3 months from the date of this Order. Furthermore it is ordered that Respondent be fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) to be paid by the end of the three month suspension. Should the Respondent wish to appeal the Order of the Commissioner, he may follow the procedure set forth in Miss. Code Ann. § 83-17-71.

SO ORDERED, this the 2 day of January 2010.

MIKE CHANEY

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Report: Recommendation Submitted By:

Aaron Sisk Hearing Officer