STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

In Re: Aegis Home Protection Docket No.: Ins. No. 22-046-EP

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The New Hampshire Insurance Department ("NHID") orders Aegis Home Protection ("Respondent") to show cause why the New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner should not levy an administrative fine against it. In support of the Order to Show Cause and pursuant to NH RSA 541-A:31, NH RSA 400-A:17 et seq. and INS Chapter 200, the NHID states as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Respondent is a Missouri based company which sells and administers consumer guaranty contracts namely home warranties to NH consumers.
- 2. Respondent advertises to NH residents through direct mailers.
- 3. Some of those mailers state that a consumer's "home warranty... may be expiring or may have already expired."
- 4. Respondent mails these advertisements to NH consumers without confirming whether the property has a home warranty and has mailed these advertisements to NH consumers who do not have a home warranty.
- 5. Such statements made in advertisements to persons without a home warranty are false and misleading.
- 6. On July 29, 2022, the NHID sent a request, pursuant to RSA 400-A:16, to Respondent for additional information related to their business operations in the state. Respondent failed to respond to that request.
- 7. On August 16, 2022, the NHID sent a second request for information to Respondent. Respondent also failed to respond to that request.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

- 8. Whether Respondent violated NH RSA 415-C:7, I (a) by making, publishing, printing, distributing, issuing, circulating, advertising, or placing before the public any statement or representation which was false or misleading.
- 9. Whether Respondent violated NH RSA 400-A:16, II by failing to provide all documents and information relevant to an investigation within 10 working days.
- 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 statutes: NH RSA 415-C:7, I (a) and 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 fine in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per each violation of NH RSA 415-C:7, I (a), or \$10,000 per each willful violation, per RSA 415-C:10 III.
 - b. Order the Respondent to pay a fine in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 per each violation of NH RSA 400-A:16, II.

NOTICE OF HEARING

14. An adjudicatory proceeding shall be commenced for the purpose of resolving the issues articulated above pursuant to NH RSA 541-A:31, NH RSA 400-A:17 et seq., and NH 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.

- 15. The Respondent shall appear at Department on October 25, 2022, at 1 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 415-C:10 III and RSA 400-A:15. Respondent's failure to appear at the time and place specified above may result in the hearing being held *in absentia* pursuant to RSA 400-A:19, VII, and sanctions may be imposed without further notice or an opportunity to be heard.
- 16. Steven 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.
- 17. 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

- 18. The Respondent has the right to be represented by a lawyer in this proceeding. However, the Respondent shall bear the cost of retaining said lawyer. Should the Respondent elect to retain a lawyer, its 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. Joshua Hilliard, Esq. shall serve as staff advocate representing the interests of the NHID.
- 21. 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.
- 22. 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

Date: 92 2022

Christopher Nicolopoulos 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 13801 Riverport Dr Ste 400, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-4828 and via e-mail to customerservice@aegishome.com.

Date: 9/2/22

Joshua S. Hilliard, Esq.

Compliance & Enforcement Counsel

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

ATTORNEY APPEARANCE or WITHDRAWAL

Desmandant Name or Case Name.	
Respondent Name or Case Name:	
□ APPEARANCE	□ WITHDRAWAL
Please ENTER my appearance as Counsel for	Please WITHDRAW my appearance as Counsel for
☐ I confirm that neither I nor any member of my law firm have been retained by the Department of Insurance or the Commissioner of Insurance.	☐ Notice of Withdrawal sent to my client on: at the following address:
I hereby certify that I provided a copy of this original in known parties to this matter in accordance with Ins 2	04.09.
Cianad.	
oigneu.	
Name:	
Name: Email:	NH Bar #:
Name:	NH Bar #:
Name: Email: (Physical Address: Mailing Address (if different):	NH Bar #:

If you do not consent to delivery by email, all communications will be sent to you by personal delivery at your physical address or by United States Postal Service first class mail to your mailing address.