STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

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DEPT OF INSURANCE
BY

# STATE OF ARIZONA

#### **DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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In the Matter of:

KENNETH EDWARD ZUBROD,

MATTHEW KENNETH ZUBROD, and

ZUBROD INSURANCE GROUP, INC.,

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No. 05A-138-INS

CONSENT ORDER OF KENNETH EDWARD ZUBROD and ZUBROD INSURANCE, GROUP, INC.

Respondents.

The State of Arizona Department of Insurance ("Department") has received evidence that **Kenneth Edward Zubrod** ("Ken Zubrod"), **Matthew Kenneth Zubrod** ("Matt Zubrod"), **and Zubrod Insurance Group, Inc.** ("Zubrod Insurance Group"), (Ken Zubrod, Matt Zubrod, and Zubrod Insurance Group, Inc., collectively, "Respondents"), have violated provisions of Title 20, Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S."). Respondents wish to resolve this matter without the commencement of formal proceedings, and admit the following Findings of Fact are true and consent to entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order solely for purposes of settling the allegations against them.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Ken Zubrod is licensed as a resident life, accident/health, property and casualty producer, Arizona license number 554837. His license expired on August 31, 2006.
- 2. Matt Zubrod is licensed as a resident property and casualty producer, Arizona License number 7034. His license expired June 30, 2006.
- 3. Zubrod Insurance Group is licensed as a resident life, accident/health, property and casualty producer, Arizona license number 83545. Its license expires on

 October 31, 2007. Ken Zubrod is the President and Statutory Agent for Zubrod Insurance Group.

4. On February 1, 2000, Ken Zubrod signed an Agency Contract between Auto-Owners Insurance Company and Zubrod Insurance Group.

## Green Valley Plumbing, Inc. - Auto-Owners policy

- 5. Timothy and Maryjean Trosper ("The Trospers") are the owners, officers and directors of Green Valley Plumbing, Inc. ("Green Valley").
- 6. From September 1, 2000 through September 1, 2003, the Trospers purchased general liability insurance from Auto-Owners Insurance Company ("Auto-Owners") through Zubrod Insurance Group.
- 7. On November 6, 2001, Auto-Owners issued a refund of \$1,336.00 to Zubrod Insurance Group for unearned premiums after it completed a final audit of Green Valley's general liability policy for the period of September 1, 2000 to September 1, 2001. Zubrod Insurance Group did not issue Green Valley a refund for the unearned premiums until after Timothy Trosper contacted them in December 2004.
- 8. On November 13, 2002, Auto-Owners issued a refund of \$2,052.00 to Zubrod Insurance Group for unearned premiums after it completed a final audit of Green Valley's general liability policy for the period of September 1, 2001 to September 1, 2002. Zubrod Insurance Group did not issue Green Valley a refund for the unearned premiums until after Timothy Trosper contacted them in December 2004.
- 9. On October 21, 2003, Auto-Owners issued a refund of \$754.00 to Zubrod Insurance Group for unearned premiums after it completed a final audit of Green Valley's general liability policy for the period of September 1, 2002 to September 1, 2003. Zubrod Insurance Group did not issue Green Valley a refund for the unearned premiums until after Timothy Trosper contacted them in December 2004.

## Green Valley Plumbing, Inc. - Nationwide policy

- 10. On or about September 24, 2003, Green Valley issued check number 15480 to Zubrod Insurance Group for \$9,371.00 to purchase insurance coverage including auto, general liability, and inland marine from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company ("Nationwide").
- 11. On or about October 13, 2003, Nationwide issued Green Valley policy no. ACP7201400673 effective September 1, 2003 with a total annual premium of \$20,312.00.
- 12. On or about October 17, 2003, Zubrod Insurance Group issued a check in the amount of \$6,905.75 to Nationwide for Green Valley's policy.
- 13. On or about October 22, 2003, Nationwide sent Green Valley a Notice of Cancellation effective December 23, 2003 due to Green Valley's two prior liability claims totaling over \$15,000.00. Nationwide later discovered that it had inadvertently cancelled Green Valley's auto policy and in January 2004, issued a notice showing that the cancellation applied to the general liability coverage only.
- 14. In or about December 2003, Nationwide issued Zubrod Insurance Group a refund of \$9,142.00 for the unearned premium owed to Green Valley as a result of Nationwide's cancellation of Green Valley's policy.
- 15. In or about December 2003, Ken Zubrod informed the Trospers that Nationwide would continue to provide Green Valley with auto insurance.
- 2ubrod Insurance Group did not issue the Trospers a refund for the difference between the amount that they paid Zubrod Insurance Group for their policy with Nationwide, \$ 9371.00, and the amount that Zubrod Insurance Group actually paid Nationwide, \$6.905.75.

## Green Valley Plumbing, Inc. - National Fire and Marine policy

17. On or about November 30, 2003, Timothy Trosper submitted a Supplemental

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Application for insurance with Risk Placement Services ("RPS"), an agent for National Fire and Marine Insurance Company ("National Fire and Marine"), through Zubrod Insurance Group.

- 18. On or about December 24, 2003, RPS sent a binder to Matt Zubrod for Green Valley's general liability coverage, policy no. 72LP1560254. The total costs and premium due on the policy was \$45,457.46 for coverage from December 24, 2003 to December 24, 2004.
- 19. On or about January 5, 2004, Green Valley issued check no. 15708 to Zubrod Insurance Group in the amount of \$12,264.37 as a down payment for the general liability insurance policy through National Fire and Marine.
- 20. On January 9, 2004, RPS received check no. 006414 in the amount of \$7,985.97 from Zubrod Insurance Group for Green Valley's policy through National Fire and Marine.
- 21. On or about January 19, 2004, RPS faxed Matt Zubrod a request for payment of \$33,193.00, the balance due on Green Valley's National Fire and Marine policy.
- 22. On or about January 19, 2004, Zubrod Insurance Group sent Green Valley an Invoice for \$33,194.00 for the National Fire and Marine general liability policy.
- 23. In or about January 2004, Ken Zubrod called the Trospers and informed them that National Fire and Marine required payment of the premium in full and offered to finance the balance. The Trospers told Ken Zubrod that they did not want to finance the balance and on January 19, 2004, gave him check no. 15756 in the amount of \$31,194.00 drawn on Green Valley's account and made payable to Zubrod Insurance Group. Zubrod Insurance Group deposited the Trospers' check with its account at Wells Fargo Bank and it cleared their account on January 20, 2004.
  - On or about January 28, 2004, Megan Zubrod Lombardo of Zubrod Insurance 24.

- 25. On or about January 29, 2004, RPS sent a Notice of Cancellation for non-payment to Zubrod Insurance Group for Green Valley's policy effective February 11, 2004.
- 26. On or about February 9, 2004, Standard Funding issued check no. 44801 to RPS, (formerly Skanco International) in the amount of \$33,193.09 for the Green Valley policy with National Fire and Marine.
- 27. On or about February 13, 2004, RPS sent a memo to Matt Zubrod advising him that it had not received payment from Standard Funding and therefore, it had cancelled Green Valley's policy and that reinstatement would only be considered after it received payment.
- 28. On or about February 17, 2004, RPS received check no. 44801 from Standard Funding in the amount of \$33,193.09 for Green Valley's policy through National Fire and Marine.
- 29. On or about February 20, 2004, National Fire and Marine issued an Endorsement showing a lapse in Green Valley's coverage from February 11, 2004 to February 18, 2004 because it had not received the premium until after it cancelled Green Valley's policy
- 30. On or about August 31, 2004, Maryjean Trosper wrote to National Fire and Marine to request that it substitute Union Life and Casualty Insurance Agency as its insurance agent of record.

- 31. On or about September 1, 2004, the Trospers notified Zubrod Insurance Group that they were canceling their coverage with National Fire and Marine before the expiration of their policy. The Trospers replaced their National Fire and Marine policy with a policy from Auto Owners Insurance Company ("Auto-Owners") effective September 1, 2004.
- 32. National Fire and Marine cancelled Green Valley's policy at its request effective September 1, 2004.
- 33. On or about November 4, 2004, National Fire and Marine issued a Report of Audit showing an unused premium due to Green Valley in the amount of \$5,681.00.
- 34. On or about November 9, 2004, Standard Funding received a return premium in the amount of \$5,303.21 from RPS for Green Valley's unearned premium.
- 35. Standard Funding applied the refund to Green Valley's account balance ad on or about November 29, 2004, issued check no. 40158 payable to Green Valley and Zubrod Insurance Group in the amount of \$1,264.90. The check was mailed to Zubrod Insurance Group.
- 36. On or about December 16, 2004, the Trospers went to the Pima County

  Sheriff's Office seeking assistance in obtaining a refund of monies that they believed Zubrod

  Insurance Group owed them after they were unable to obtain a refund or an accounting

  from Ken or Matt Zubrod.
- 37. On December 22, 2004, Matt Zubrod issued Zubrod Insurance Group check no. 007082 to Green Valley in the amount of \$12,500.

#### Hayden Electric, Inc.

- 38. Jerry Hayden is President and CEO of Hayden Electric, Inc. ("Hayden Electric") and Genelle Luck is the Office Manager and has held that position for nine years.
- 39. From April 28, 2002 through April 28, 2005, Hayden Electric purchased general liability insurance from Auto-Owners Insurance Company ("Auto-Owners") through

Zubrod Insurance Group.

- 40. On June 17, 2003 Auto-Owners completed a final audit of Hayden Electric's general liability policy for the period of April 28, 2002 to April 28, 2003 and issued a refund of \$10,017 to Zubrod Insurance Group for unearned premiums. Zubrod Insurance Group did not issue Hayden Electric a refund for the unearned premium until Genelle Luck contacted them in July 2005.
- 41. On July 11, 2004 Auto-Owners completed a final audit of Hayden Electric's general liability policy for the period of April 28, 2003 to April 28, 2004, and issued a refund of \$12,696 to Zubrod Insurance Group for the unearned premiums. Zubrod Insurance Group did not issue Hayden Electric a refund for the unearned premium until Genelle Luck contacted them in July 2005.
- 42. On April 8, 2004 Hayden Electric issued a check, No. 4251, for \$25,000 payable to "Zubrod" as a down payment for its insurance policies issued by Auto-Owners for the policy period of April 28, 2004 to April 28, 2005. The check was endorsed "Zubrod Properties" and deposited into Bank of America account number XXXXXX7064. Zubrod Insurance Group did not forward the \$25,000 down payment to Auto-Owners on Hayden Electric's behalf.
- 43. On July 19, 2005, Genelle Luck confronted Matt Zubrod with the information about Zubrod Insurance Group failing to forward the audit refunds for unearned premiums. On July 21, 2005 Zubrod Insurance Group issued a check to Hayden Electric for \$24,542.53.
- 44. On August 10, 2005 Jerry Hayden and Genelle Luck met with Ken Zubrod to discuss Zubrod Insurance Group's failure to remit Hayden Electric's \$25,000 down payment to Auto-Owners and other problems with Hayden Electric's account. They provided Ken Zubrod an itemization of Hayden Electric's general ledger and an invoice for \$37,619.31,

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which was the amount Hayden Electric believed they were owed by Zubrod Insurance Group.

45. On August 12, 2005 Zubrod Insurance Group issued a cashier's check in the amount of \$37,619.31 payable to Hayden Electric.

#### Gallagher's Bottled Water

- 46. Greg T. Gallagher is a sole proprietor doing business as Gallagher's Bottled Water ("Gallagher").
- 47. On or about June 1, 2003, Gallagher purchased a general liability policy no. 03462545490491 through Zubrod Insurance Group from Auto-Owners. The policy period was from June 1, 2003 to June 1, 2004.
- 48. On or about October 14, 2004, Auto-Owners issued a final audit of Gallagher's policy that showed that it owed Gallagher a return premium in the amount of \$1,703.00. Auto-Owners credited Zubrod Insurance Group \$1,703.00 on their Auto-Owner Agency Bill Statement for October 2004.
- 49. On or about September 15, 2005, Gallagher filed a complaint with the Department claiming that Matt Zubrod and Zubrod Insurance Group failed to refund \$1,703.00 owed to him.
- 50. On or about September 20, 2005, Zubrod Insurance Group issued Gallagher a refund for the unearned premium in the amount of \$1, 703.00.

## Matt Zubrod License Denial

- 51. On June 14, 2006, Matt Zubrod filed with the Department an application for renewal of his resident property and casualty producer's license, license number 7034, which was to expire on June 30, 2006.
- 52. On June 20, 2006, the Department denied Matt Zubrod's license renewal application.

53. On July 12, 2006, Matt Zubrod, through his attorney, filed a timely appeal of the Department's denial of his renewal.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Director has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Respondents' conduct, as alleged above, constitutes violating any provision of Title 20 or any rule, a violation of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(2).
- 3. Respondents' conduct, as alleged above, constitutes improperly withholding monies received in the course of doing insurance business, a violation of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(4).
- 4. Respondents' conduct, as alleged above, constitutes demonstrating incompetence in the conduct of business, a violation of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(8).
- 5. Respondent, Ken Zubrod's conduct, as alleged above, constitutes a violation of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(10).
- 6. Respondent, Ken Zubrod's conduct, as alleged above, constitutes violating A.R.S. § 6-1410, which requires a premium finance contract to be dated and signed by the insured, a violation of A.R.S. § 20-295(A)(13).
- 7. The Department has the authority to suspend or revoke a license of a business entity of any ground set forth in A.R.S. § 20-295(A) if the cause relates to an officer or director of the business entity, pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-295(B)(1).
- 8. The Department retains the authority to suspend or revoke the license even if the license has lapsed by operation of law, pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-295(H).
- 9. Grounds exist to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew Respondents' insurance licenses, impose civil penalties and order restitution pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 20-295(A), (B), (D) and (F).

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#### IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. Respondents are assessed a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00 due and payable upon return of this Consent Order.
- 2. Zubrod Insurance Group shall complete and submit to the Department a Voluntary Surrender of Insurance License form with the execution of this Consent Order.
- 3. Ken Zubrod's Arizona resident life, accident/health, property and casualty producer license, number 554837, is revoked effective as of the date of this Consent Order.
- Matt Zubrod's resident property and casualty producer's license, license number 7034, shall be renewed and immediately suspended for a period of thirty (30) days effective as of the date of this Consent Order.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE this 28th day of September, 2006.

CHRISTINA URIAS, Director Arizona Department of Insurance

## CONSENT TO ORDER

- Respondents have reviewed the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of 1. Law and Order.
- 2. Respondents admit the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, and admit the foregoing Findings of Fact and consent to the entry of the foregoing Conclusions of Law and Order.
- Respondents are aware of their right to notice and a hearing at which they may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

Respondents irrevocably waive their right to a hearing and to any court appeals relating to this Consent Order.

- 4. Respondents state that no promise of any kind or nature, except as expressly contained in this Consent Order, was made to them to induce them to enter into this Consent Order, and that they have entered into this Consent Order voluntarily.
- 5. Respondents acknowledge that the acceptance of this Consent Order by the Director is solely to settle this matter against them and does not preclude any other agency, officer or subdivision of this state from instituting civil or criminal proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future nor does it preclude the Department from instituting civil or criminal proceedings unrelated to this matter as may be appropriate in the future.
- 6. This Consent Order may be executed in any number of counterparts and by different parties in separate counterparts. Each counterpart when so executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same Consent Order.
- 7. Ken Zubrod, as President of Zubrod Insurance Group Inc., represents that he is authorized to sign this Consent Order on its behalf.

KENNETH EDWARD ZUBROD, individually and as President of Zubrod Insurance Group, Inc.

COPIES of the foregoing mailed/delivered this 29th day of September, 2006, to:

Lewis Kowal, Administrative Law Judge Office of Administrative Hearings 1400 W. Washington, Suite 101 Phoenix, Arizona 58007

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