STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

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STATE OF ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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In the Matter of:)
LIBERTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY) Docket No. 8647
IBERTI LIFE INSURANCE COMPANI) CONSENT ORDER
Respondent.)

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A market conduct examination was made of Liberty Life Insurance Company, hereinafter referred to as "LLIC", by a Market Conduct Examiner for the Arizona Department of Insurance ("ADOI") as of December 31, 1992, covering the time period from 1990 to December 31, 1992. Based upon the January 1, examination results, it is alleged that LLIC has violated the provisions of Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 20, Sections 20-448.01, 20-461, 20-2110, and Arizona Administrative Code Rules ("A.A.C. R") 4-14-215, 4-14-801, and 4-14-1203. LLIC wishes to resolve this matter without formal adjudicative proceedings and hereby agrees to a Consent Order.

The Director of Insurance of the State of Arizona (the "Director") enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, which are neither admitted nor denied by LLIC, and the following Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- LLIC is authorized to transact life and disability insurance as an insurer pursuant to a Certificate of Authority issued by the Director.
- 2. The Examiner was authorized by the Director to conduct a market conduct examination of LLIC and has prepared the Report

of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of LLIC (the "Report"). The period covered by the on-site examination was from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1992.

- 3. The Examiner reviewed thirty (30) of the 584 Arizona life policies issued by LLIC during the period covered by the Examination. As to these, the Department contends LLIC failed to:
- a. obtain the mandated HIV Testing and Consent Form from five (5) applicants where an HIV blood test was completed;
- b. obtain and require on two (2) files a statement signed by the applicant as to whether or not such insurance will replace existing life insurance;
- c. obtain and require on one (1) file a statement signed by the agent as to whether or not the agent knows replacement is or may be involved in the transaction;
- d. present to five (5) applicants a form of "IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" which complied with Exhibit A of A.A.C.R 4-14-215;
- e. provide one (1) applicant with a complete summary of rights upon an adverse underwriting decision.
- 4. The Examiner reviewed five (5) of the seventeen (17) Arizona life policies declined by LLIC during the period covered by the Examination. As to these, the Department contends LLIC failed to:
- a. obtain mandated HIV Testing and Consent Form on one (1) file where an HIV blood test was completed;
- b. provide one (1) applicant with a complete summary of rights upon an adverse underwriting decision.

- 5. The Examiner reviewed fifteen (15) of the 138 Arizona life application files which involved the replacement of existing life insurance by LLIC during the period covered by the Examination. As to these, the Department contends LLIC failed to:
- present two (2) applicants with "NOTICE a. REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" not later than at the time of taking the application, and failed to submit to the replacing insurer with the application a copy of such Notice signed by the applicant. As to the remaining thirteen (13) applicants, LLIC presented to the applicants form "IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" that did not comply with Exhibit A of A.A.C.R 4-14-215. However, the notice provided by LLIC had been submitted to and approved by the ADOI;
- b. send to the existing insurer on six (6) files a "NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" within three (3) working days of the date the application was received at LLIC's home or regional office;
- 6. The Examiner reviewed fourteen (14) of the seventy (70) Arizona life claims paid by LLIC during the period covered by the Examination. As to these, the Department contends LLIC failed to:
- a. acknowledge receipt of five (5) notifications of claim within ten (10) working days of receipt thereof;
- b. date stamp initial notices of claim in two (2) files;

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c. advise two (2) first party claimants of the acceptance or denial of the claim within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss;

- d. notify three (3) first party claimants within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss that LLIC needed more time to determine whether the claim should be accepted or denied;
- e. complete the investigation of two (2) claims within thirty (30) days after notification of the claim.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. By failing to obtain the mandated HIV Testing and Consent Form from applicants where an HIV blood test was completed, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. § 20-448.01.
- 2. By failing to obtain and require a statement signed by the applicant as to whether or not the insurance will replace existing life insurance, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(1)(a) and A.A.C. R4-14-215(F)(2)(a).
- 3. By failing to obtain and require a statement signed by the agent as to whether or not the agent knows replacement is or may be involved in the transaction, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(1)(b) and A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(2)(b).
- 4. By failing to present to applicants an "IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" in the form as described by Exhibit A of A.A.C.R 4-14-215, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(2)(a).

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- 5. By failing to provide an applicant with a complete summary of rights upon an adverse underwriting decision, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. § 20-2110(A).
- 6. By failing to present to applicants a "NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" not later than at the time of taking the application, and by failing to submit to the replacing insurer with the application a copy of the Notice signed by the applicant, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(2)(a) and A.A.C. R4-14-215(E)(2)(c).
- 7. By failing to send to the existing insurer a "NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" within three (3) working days of the date the application was received at LLIC's home or regional office, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-215(F)(3)(c).
- 8. By failing to acknowledge receipt of notifications of claim within ten (10) working days of receipt thereof, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. § 20-461(A)(2) and A.A.C. R4-14-801(E)(1).
- 9. By failing to maintain files which contained all notes and work papers pertaining to the claim in such detail that pertinent events and dates of events can be reconstructed, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.A.C. R4-14-801(C).
- 10. By failing to advise claimants of the acceptance or denial of the claim within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. § 20-461(A)(5) and A.A.C. R4-14-801(G)(1)(a).

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11. By failing to notify claimants within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss that LLIC needed more time to determine whether the claim should be accepted or denied, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. § 20-461(A)(3) and A.A.C. R4-14-801(G)(1)(b).

- 12. By failing to complete the investigation of claims within thirty (30) days after notification of the claim, the Department contends that LLIC violated A.R.S. 20-461(A)(3) and A.A.C. R4-14-801(F).
- 13. Grounds exist for the entry of the provisions of the following Order.

ORDER

LLIC, having admitted the jurisdiction of the Director to enter the Order set forth herein, having waived the Notice of Hearing and the hearing, having waived any and all rights to appeal this Order, and having consented to the entry of the Order set forth hereafter, and there being no just reason for delay:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. LLIC shall:

- (a) obtain the mandated HIV Testing and Consent Form from applicants where an HIV blood test was completed;
- (b) obtain and require a statement signed by the applicant as to whether or not the insurance will replace existing life insurance;
- (c) obtain and require a statement signed by the agent as to whether or not the agent knows replacement is or may be involved in the transaction;

- (d) present to applicants the required "IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" in the form as described by regulation;
- (e) provide an applicant with a complete summary of rights upon an adverse underwriting decision;
- (f) present to applicants a "NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" not later than at the time of taking the application, and submit to the replacing insurer with the application a copy of the Notice signed by the applicant;
- (g) send to the existing insurer a "NOTICE REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF LIFE INSURANCE" within three (3) working days of the date the application was received at LLIC's home or regional office;
- (h) maintain files which contain all notes and work papers pertaining to the claim in such detail that pertinent events and dates of events can be reconstructed;
- (i) advise claimants of the acceptance or denial of the claim within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss;
- (j) notify claimants within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of properly executed proofs of loss that LLIC needs more time to determine whether the claim should be accepted or denied;
- (k) complete the investigation of claims within thirty (30) days after notification of the claim unless such investigation cannot reasonably be completed within such time;
- (1) acknowledge receipt of notification of claim within ten (10) working days of receipt thereof.

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- 2. Within thirty (30) days of the filed date of this Order, LLIC shall develop and file with the Director an action plan, including a bulletin in a form acceptable to the Director, for training all agents representing LLIC in Arizona as to the legal requirements for replacement of life insurance, including the provisions of A.A.C. R4-14-215.
- 3. LLIC shall develop a written action plan to monitor and ensure that its personnel process claims in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 20-461 and 20-462 and A.A.C. R4-14-801. This Action Plan shall provide for on-going training of LLIC's claims personnel and shall address, but not be limited to, the alleged violations of A.R.S. §§ 20-461 and 20-462 and A.A.C. R4-14-801 cited in the Report and in this Order. The Action Plan, including memoranda to be distributed to claims personnel, shall be filed with the Director for approval within thirty (30) days of the filed date of this Report.
- 4. The ADOI shall be permitted, through an authorized representative, to verify that LLIC has complied with all provisions of this Order, and the Director may separately order LLIC to comply.
- 5. LLIC shall pay a civil penalty of FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000) to the Director for remission to the State Treasurer for deposit in the State General Fund in accordance with A.R.S. § 20-220(B). This civil penalty shall be provided to the Market Conduct Examinations Division of the ADOI on or before December 2, 1994.

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6. The Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of LLIC as of December 31, 1992, including the objections of LLIC thereto, shall be filed with the ADOI.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona this 13th day of December, 1994.

Chris Herstam
Director of Insurance

CONSENT TO ORDER

- 1. Respondent, Liberty Life Insurance Company, has reviewed the foregoing Order.
- 2. Respondent is aware of its right to a hearing, at which hearing Respondent may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Respondent has irrevocably waived its right to such public hearing and to any court appeals relating thereto.
- 3. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, and consents to the entry of this Order.
- 4. Respondent states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to induce it to enter into this Order and that it has entered into this Order voluntarily.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges that the acceptance of this Order by the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, is solely for the purpose of settling this matter against it and does not preclude any other agency or officer of the state or subdivision thereof from instituting other civil or criminal proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 6. C. Alan Chapman represents that, as

 Vice President , he/she is an officer of Liberty Life

 Insurance Company, and that as such, he/she has been authorized

 by it to enter into this Order for and on its behalf.

November 29, 1994
Date

LIBERTY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Bv:

Vice President

1 COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered December , 1994, to: this 13th day of 2 Gay Ann Williams 3 Deputy Director Gregory Y. Harris 4 Chief Administrative Law Judge Erin Klug 5 Manager Market Conduct Examinations Division 6 Saul Saulson Supervisor 7 Examinations Section Shirley Polzin (L&D Orders only) 8 Supervisor Life and Disability Section 9 Deloris E. Williamson Assistant Director 10 Rates & Regulations Division Gary Torticill 11 Assistant Director and Chief Financial Examiner Corporate & Financial Affairs Division 12 Cathy O'Neil Assistant Director Consumer Services and Investigations 13 Mary Butterfield (L&D Orders only) Manager 14 Health Policy Division 15 DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE 2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210 16 Phoenix, AZ 85018 17 Ralph L. Ogden, President Liberty Life Insurance Company 18 P.O. Box 789 Greenville, South Carolina 29602-0789 19 S. David Childers, Esq. 20 Low & Childers, P.C. 1221 East Osborn Road, Suite 104 21 Phoenix, Arizona 85014 22 23 24 25

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