STATE OF ARIZONA FILED

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# STATE OF ARIZONA

#### DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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In the Matter of:

Docket No. 03A-155-INS

AMERICAN BANKERS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF FLORIDA, NAIC # 60275,

**CONSENT ORDER** 

Respondent.

Examiners for the Department of Insurance (the "Department") conducted a market conduct examination of American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida ("ABLAC"). In the Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of ABLAC, the Examiners allege that ABLAC violated A.R.S. §§20-298 20-461, 20-20-1605, 20-1613, 20-2106 and A.A.C. R20-6-801.

ABLAC wishes to resolve this matter without formal proceedings, admits that the following Findings of Fact are true, and consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- ABLAC is authorized to transact life and disability insurance pursuant to a
   Certificate of Authority issued by the Director.
- 2. The Examiners were authorized by the Director to conduct a market conduct examination of ABLAC. The on-site examination covered the time period from January 1, 2001 to December` 31, 2001 and was concluded on September 16, 2002. Based on their findings, the Examiners prepared the "Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of American Bankers Life Assurance Company" dated September 16, 2002.
  - 3. Following a market conduct examination of American Bankers Life

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Assurance Company of Florida as of September 10, 1993, the Director entered a Consent Order, Docket No. 97A-154, which was filed on September 10, 1997 (the "1997 Order"). Section 1 of the "Order" portion of the 1994 Order stated as follows:

- "1. Respondents shall: ... D maintain automobile, mobile home, travel trailer, unemployment, property and credit life and disability claim files in a manner which would allow pertinent events and dates to be reconstructed."
- 4. The Examiners reviewed the Company's procedures for paying commissions during the time frame of the examination and found that ABLAC paid commissions to Specialty Retailers, Central Arizona Insurance, and Centex Home Equity Corporation, none of whom were licensed as a producer in Arizona.
- 5. The Examiners reviewed all of the forms used by the Company during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:
- a. ABLAC used 16 claim forms [C1121, C1128-0996, C1128-0301, C2011-0301, C2129(1)-0400, C2129(1)-0800, C2129(1)-0601, C2199-0800, C2317-0601, C1030-0300, C1030-0301, C1030-0701, C1099-0598, C1099-0998, SCPPLIFE, CLM02A] that
- i. Failed to specify the length of time that the authorization remains valid.
- ii. Failed to include notice that the individual or the individual's authorized representative is entitled to receive a copy of the authorization.
- b. ABLAC used one claim form [C2011-0795] that failed to include notice that the individual or the individual's authorized representative is entitled to receive a copy of the authorization.
- 6. The Examiners reviewed 87 of 798 XYCOR applications processed by the Company during the time frame of the Examination and found that ABLAC issued 38 certificates of insurance that exceeded the amount of unpaid indebtedness.

- 5. The Examiners reviewed 171 of 282 claims processed by the Company during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:
- a. ABLAC utilized a plan or arrangement whereby three creditors (Montgomery Ward, Sears, and Wells Fargo Financial Services) were authorized to settle or adjust claims.
- b. ABLAC produced 14 claim files that failed to contain all of the necessary information that would allow pertinent events and dates of those events to be reconstructed.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.**

- ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-298 by paying commissions to unlicensed producers.
- 2. ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-2106(8)(b) by using claim forms that failed to state the correct amount of time that the authorization remains valid.
- 3. ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-2106(9) by using claim forms that failed to state that the individual or the individual's authorized representative is entitled to receive a copy of the authorization.
- 4. ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-1605(B) by issuing certificates of insurance that exceed the amount of unpaid indebtedness.
- 5. ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-1613(C) by authorizing creditors to settle and adjust claims.
- 6. ABLAC is alleged to have violated A.R.S §20-461(A)(3), A.A.C. R20-6-801(C), and the 1997 Order by failing to maintain claim files so that pertinent events and dates of those events could be reconstructed
- 9. Grounds exist for the entry of the following Order in accordance with A.R.S. §§ 20-220 and 20-456.

#### <u>ORDER</u>

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. ABLAC shall cease and desist from:
  - a. Failing to comply with an Order of the Director.
  - b. Paying commissions to unlicensed producers.
- c. Using claim forms that fail to contain a compliant *Authorization for the Release of Information*.
- d. Issuing certificates of insurance with amounts that exceed the amount of unpaid indebtedness.
  - e. Authorizing creditors to settle or adjust claims.
- f. Failing to maintain claim files so that pertinent events and the dates of those events can be reconstructed.
- 2. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, ABLAC shall submit to the Arizona Department of Insurance, for approval, evidence that corrections have been implemented and communicated to the appropriate personnel, regarding the issues outlined in Paragraph 1 of the Order section of this Consent Order. Evidence of corrective action and communication thereof includes, but is not limited to, memos, bulletins, E-mails, correspondence, procedures manuals, print screens, and training materials.
- 3. The Department shall be permitted, through authorized representatives, to verify that ABLAC has complied with all provisions of this Order.
- 4. ABLAC shall pay a civil penalty of \$20,000.00 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) and 20-456. The civil penalty shall be provided to the Market Oversight Division of the Department prior to the filing of this Order.

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> Charles R. Cohen Director of Insurance

## **CONSENT TO ORDER**

1. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida has reviewed the foregoing Order.

- 2. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida admits the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, admits the foregoing Findings of Fact, and consents to the entry of the Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida is aware of the right to a hearing, at which it may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida irrevocably waives the right to such notice and hearing and to any court appeals related to this Order.
- 4. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to it to induce it to enter into this Consent Order and that it has entered into this Consent Order voluntarily.
- 5. American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida acknowledges that the acceptance of this Order by the Director of the Arizona Department of Insurance is solely for the purpose of settling this matter and does not preclude any other agency or officer of this state or its subdivisions or any other person from instituting proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or administrative, as may be appropriate now or in the future.

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5,V.P.	REGULATORY	ADMin. of	American	Bankers	Life	Ass	urance	Cor	mpany	of
Florida, is	s authorized to	enter into th	nis Order fo	r them an	d on	their	behalf.			

, 1	AMERICAN BA	ANKERS LIFE ASSURAN	NCE COMPANY OF FLORIDA
10/15/03	Bv	Minel	
Date			

1	COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered this <u>/ 7 day</u> of <u>October</u> , 2003, to:
2	this <u>112</u> day of <u>October</u> , 2003, to:
3	Gerrie Marks
4	Acting Deputy Director for Regulatory Affairs  Mary Butterfield
5	Assistant Director Consumer Affairs Division
6	Paul J. Hogan Market Oversight Administrator
7	Deloris E. Williamson Assistant Director
8	Rates & Regulations Division
9	Steve Ferguson Assistant Director
10	Financial Affairs Division Allan Griffieth
11	Chief Financial Examiner Alexandra Schafer
12	Assistant Director Life and Health Division
13	Terry L. Cooper Fraud Unit Chief
14	Fraud Offit Chief
15	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
16	2910 North 44th Street, Second Floor Phoenix, AZ 85018
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18	Russell G. Kirsch, Sr. Vice President
19	American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida 11222 Quail Roost Drive
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