DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0690

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
BYRON STEELE	)	Case No. 09A000654
Applicant	)	
	)	
Serve at: 3270 Ipswich	)	
St. Charles, MO 63301	)	
	)	

CONSENT ORDER
GRANTING LICENSE RENEWAL UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

John M. Huff is the duly appointed Director of the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration. As such, the Director has authority for the supervision, regulation, discipline and licensing of bail bond agents pursuant to Missouri's Professional Bail Bondsman and Surety Recovery Agent Licensure Act.

The Consumer Affairs Division of the Department is authorized by the Director to investigate applications for bail bond agent licenses.

On August 14, 2009, the Department received Byron Steele's application for a bail bond agent license. A subsequent investigation revealed that on May 6, 2009, Steele was charged with

Driving While Intoxicated and Resisting/Interfering with Arrest by the St. Charles County Prosecutor.

The Consumer Affairs Division has spoken to Steele about whether the activities which led to his arrest and prosecution might constitute grounds for denial. There is no doubt that a felony conviction against Steele would remove the Director's discretion and mandate the denial of Steele's Bail Bond license pursuant to Section 374.755.1(2), RSMo (Cum. Supp. 2008) and Missouri's Supreme Court Rule 33.17.

In order to avoid delay, pending resolution of his criminal charges, Steele has agreed to enter into, and abide by the mutually agreeable terms of, this consent order. Both Steele and the Department agree that if Steele were to receive a felony conviction, he would automatically be disqualified to be a bail bond agent in the state of Missouri. Therefore, the terms set forth in this Consent Order are an appropriate disposition of this matter and entry of this order is in the public interest.

The Director is authorized to issue this Consent Order pursuant to sections 374.046 and 374.755 RSMo (Cum Supp. 2008).

The Director is authorized to enforce this consent order and may initiate any action to do so authorized by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT the issuance of Byron Steele's bail bond agent license is hereby approved subject to mutual agreement upon each of the following mandatory conditions:

1. If Steele enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or is found guilty for a felony or

2. If Steele is convicted of any charge listed herein, and elects to appeal that decision to the Missouri Court of Appeals; he must nevertheless surrender his license pending the final outcome of his conviction on appeal.

3. Upon the final adjudication of the above referenced charges, Steele must provide the Consumer Affairs Division with a certified copy of the court's action on each of these charges within 5 business days. Based upon the disposition of the charges, the Consumer Affairs Division will make a final recommendation to the Director regarding the status of Steele's license.

4. If, after trial, the court acquits Steele, the Director will vacate this Consent Order and remove any of its conditions from Steele's license.

Steele hereby acknowledges that if the Director were to refuse to issue Steele's bail bond license, he would have the right to file an appeal with the Administrative Hearing Commission. Steele is aware of that right, and is similarly aware of the length of time such an appeal process would require. In consideration of his options, and his desire to work, under the conditions of this consent order, Steele has made clear his preference to enter into this Consent Order, as signified by his signature.

By signing this Consent Order each signatory certifies that he or she is fully authorized to do so and that each signatory has read, understood, and agreed to the terms, conditions, and requirements of the Consent Order in their entirety.

Byron E. Steele, Applicant

9-24-09
Date

Angela L. Nelson, Director
Division of Consumer Affairs

9-29-2009
Date

SO ORDERED, SIGNED AND OFFICIAL SEAL AFFIXED

THIS 6th DAY OF October, 2009.

John M. Huff, Director
Department of Insurance, Financial
Institutions and Professional Registration

Return to:
Division of Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 690
Jefferson City, MO 65102