



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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

In the Matter of:

WYATT AUSTIN KNOTTS,

Applicant.

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Case No. 2211300688C

CONSENT ORDER

Chlora Lindley-Myers, Director of the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance, takes up the above matter for consideration and disposition. The Consumer Affairs Division, through counsel Rachel Jones, Senior Counsel, and Wyatt Austin Knotts have reached a settlement in this matter and have consented to the issuance of this Consent Order.

1. Chlora Lindley-Myers is the duly appointed Director of the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance (“Director” of the “Department”) whose duties, pursuant to Chapters 374, 375 and 381, RSMo,¹ include the supervision, regulation, and discipline of insurance producers.

¹ All civil statutory references are to the Revised Statutes of Missouri (2016) unless otherwise noted.

2. The Consumer Affairs Division has the duty of conducting investigations into the acts of insurance producers under Chapters 374 and 375, and is authorized by the Director to investigate and to recommend enforcement action including insurance producer license application refusal.

3. Wyatt Austin Knotts (“Knotts”) is a Missouri resident with a residential and mailing address of 309 Lancelot Drive, Liberty, Missouri 64068, and a business address of 1220 Washington Street, Suite 102, Kansas City, Missouri 64105.

4. On July 15, 2022, the Department received Knotts’ completed electronic resident application for an insurance producer license (“Application”).

5. Background Information Question Number 1B on the Application asks, in relevant part, “Have you ever been convicted of a felony, had a judgment withheld or deferred, or are you currently charged with committing a felony?”

6. Knotts answered “Yes” to Background Question Number 1B.

7. Knotts provided a letter of explanation with his Application along with documentation regarding his criminal history, as follows: On or about March 5, 2015, the State of Missouri charged Knotts with the class C felony of Possession of Controlled Substance Except 35 Grams or Less of Marijuana, in violation of § 195.202, RSMo. *State v. Wyatt Austin Knotts*, Clay Cty. Cir. Ct., Case No. 15CY-CR00197-01.² On June 26, 2015, Knotts pled guilty to this charge and entered into a deferred prosecution agreement,

² All criminal statutory references are to those in effect at the time Knotts committed the offense.

which placed Knotts on probation for a period of five years. Id. The Court ordered Knotts to complete forty hours of community service and a drug court program. Id.

8. Between 2015 and 2017, the Court issued several orders finding that Knotts violated the conditions of his probation in various respects, including violating group treatment rules, failing to attend a drug court graduation, using a mind altering substance, and failing to report for mandatory testing.

9. On June 23, 2017, the Court revoked Knotts' probation because he forged Alcoholics Anonymous meeting sheets, and imposed a sentence of five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

10. Knotts was released from the Missouri Department of Corrections on parole supervision on April 23, 2018.

11. During his parole, Knotts completed a comprehensive substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation program.

12. Knotts successfully completed his parole supervision by the Missouri Division of Probation and Parole on May 31, 2020.

13. Since his release from the Department of Corrections, Knotts has successfully maintained employment at Stewart Title for several years.

14. Knotts acknowledges and understands that the Director may refuse to issue him a resident insurance producer license pursuant to § 375.141.1(6) because Knotts has been convicted of a felony.

15. Knotts acknowledges and understands that he has the right to consult legal counsel at his own expense.

16. Knotts stipulates and agrees to waive any waivable rights to a hearing before the Administrative Hearing Commission or the Director, any waivable rights to seek judicial review, and any waivable rights to challenge or contest the terms and conditions of this Consent Order. Knotts further stipulates and agrees to forever release and hold harmless the Department, the Director and her agents, and the Consumer Affairs Division from all liability and claims arising out of, pertaining to, or relating to this matter.

17. Knotts acknowledges and understands that this Consent Order is an administrative action and that the Department will report it to other states. Knotts further acknowledges and understands that this administrative action should be disclosed on his future applications and renewal applications and that he is responsible for complying with the reporting requirements of each state in which he may be licensed.

18. Each signatory to this Consent Order certifies by signing that he or she is fully authorized, in his or her own capacity or by the named party he or she represents, to accept the terms and provisions of this Consent Order in their entirety and agrees, in his or her personal or representational capacity, to be bound by the terms of this Consent Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

19. The facts admitted by Knotts are grounds to refuse his Application for an insurance producer license pursuant to § 375.141.1(6).

20. Section 375.141 provides, in relevant part:

1. The director may suspend, revoke, refuse to issue or refuse to renew an insurance producer license for any one or more of the following causes:

* * *

(6) Having been convicted of any felony or a crime involving moral turpitude[.]

21. The foregoing facts hereby admitted by Knotts constitute cause for the Director to refuse Knotts' Application pursuant to § 375.141.1(6).

22. The Director is authorized to settle this matter and issue this Consent Order in the public interest pursuant to §§ 374.046, 536.060, and 621.045.

23. The terms set forth in this Consent Order are an appropriate disposition of this matter, and entry of this Consent Order is in the public interest.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the Department will issue a resident insurance producer license to Wyatt Austin Knotts subject to the terms set forth herein and the following special conditions:

1. Wyatt A. Knotts shall report to the Consumer Affairs Division any violation of or failure to comply with Missouri insurance regulations and Missouri insurance laws, including those set forth in Chapters 374, 375, and 381, within five (5) business days of such violation or failure to comply.
2. Wyatt A. Knotts shall respond to all inquiries from the Consumer Affairs Division in accordance with 20 CSR 100-4.100.
3. If a consumer complaint is communicated directly to Wyatt A. Knotts, Knotts shall send the Consumer Affairs Division a copy of the complaint and a copy of Knotts' response to the consumer within five (5) business days of receipt of the consumer complaint.

4. Wyatt A. Knotts shall report to the Consumer Affairs Division any and all of the following incidents involving Knotts: the first court hearing or appearance in any criminal proceeding, guilty plea, *Alford* plea, nolo contendere plea, finding of guilt, or conviction for a felony or misdemeanor. Knotts shall report all such incidents to the Consumer Affairs Division within five (5) business days of their occurrence.
5. Wyatt A. Knotts shall report to the Consumer Affairs Division any administrative action undertaken or initiated against Knotts in another jurisdiction or by another governmental agency in this state within the five (5) business days after Knotts receives notification of the initiation of such administrative action.
6. Wyatt A. Knotts shall report to the Consumer Affairs Division any change of employer within five (5) business days after Knotts receives notification of the change of employer.
7. The special conditions listed in paragraphs 1 through 7 will expire upon the earlier of the expiration, lapse, termination, revocation, or renewal of Wyatt A. Knotts' resident insurance producer license, whichever occurs first.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for five (5) years subsequent to the date of this executed consent order, Wyatt A. Knotts will voluntarily surrender his license to the Department within five (5) business days of Knotts entering a guilty plea, entering a nolo contendere plea or *Alford* plea, being found guilty, or being convicted for a felony, regardless of whether the sentence is imposed, suspended, or executed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if Wyatt A. Knotts fully complies with the terms of this Consent Order and no cause for the Director to discipline Knotts' resident insurance producer license can be found, then Knotts may apply to renew his resident insurance producer license, and the Director shall consider his application in accordance with Chapters 374, 375, and 381 without regard to Knotts' prior criminal history and felony conviction in *State v. Wyatt Austin Knotts*, Clay Cty. Cir. Ct., Case No. 15CY-CR00197-01, or the underlying conduct.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that the Director may pursue additional legal remedies, as determined appropriate by the Director, without limitation as authorized by Chapters 374, 375, and 381, including remedies for violation of or failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order.

SO ORDERED, SIGNED, AND OFFICIAL SEAL AFFIXED THIS 18th

DAY OF April, 2023.

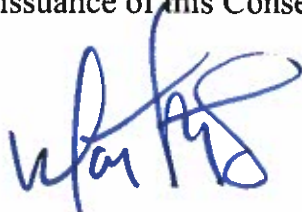


CHLORA LINDLEY-MYERS, Director
Missouri Department of Commerce and
Insurance



CONSENT AND WAIVER OF HEARING

The undersigned persons understand and acknowledge that Wyatt A. Knotts may have a right to a hearing but that Wyatt A. Knotts waives the hearing and consents to the issuance of this Consent Order.



Wyatt A. Knotts
309 Lancelot Drive
Liberty, MO 64068
Applicant



Date

Counsel for Applicant

Name: _____

Missouri Bar No.: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Facsimile: _____

Email: _____

Date



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Date