

Superintendent of Financial Services

Regarding the life insurance agent licence of
Kofi Owusu Agyei-Amoama

AND the Insurance Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.1.8, as amended,
particularly subsections 393(9) – 393(11)

DECISION

Introduction:

A Notice of Opportunity for Hearing dated September 15, 2010 (the Notice) informed Mr. Agyei-Amoama of allegations against him and the opportunity for a hearing before an Advisory Board. The Notice advised Mr. Agyei-Amoama that if a hearing was not requested, the Superintendent would make a decision based on information in the possession of the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (the Commission). Mr. Agyei-Amoama was also advised that such decision could include suspension or revocation of his licence as a life insurance agent.

I have received an affidavit from Shaifa Chandani, Licensing Registration Specialist at the Commission that the Notice was successfully served by registered mail and regular mail. I am satisfied that the Notice was properly served in accordance with the provisions of the Insurance Act.

A copy of the allegations is attached to this Decision.

The Evidence:

Since Mr. Agyei-Amoama has not requested a hearing, the evidence of Commission staff in the particulars attached to the Notice is uncontroverted.

The evidence can be summarized as follows. The Commission received notification from Mr. Agyei-Amoama's insurance company that Mr. Agyei-Amoama's errors and omissions insurance policy was cancelled. The Commission made several attempts to contact him by mail, registered mail and by telephone without success.

Findings of Fact

I find the allegation that Mr. Agyei-Amoama is unsuitable to hold a licence as a life insurance agent to be established. The reasons for this finding are the notification of cancellation of the policy by Mr. Agyei-Amoama's insurance company and Mr. Agyei-Amoama's failure to respond to the several attempts by the Commission to contact him. Considering the finding of unsuitability, it is not necessary to consider the allegation of untrustworthiness.

In the absence of testimony by Mr. Agyei-Amoama, I am not aware of any explanations for Mr. Agyei-Amoama's behaviour or mitigating circumstances.

Decision:

I have found that Mr. Agyei-Amoama is unsuitable to hold a licence as a life insurance agent.

Findings of unsuitability frequently result in revocation of the licence of an insurance agent.

Errors and omissions insurance is necessary to protect consumers from negligence by insurance agents. Insurance agents without errors and omissions insurance may not have sufficient assets to indemnify policy holders or applicants for insurance from such losses. Accordingly insurance agents that do not have errors and omissions insurance cannot be allowed to be engaged in the business of insurance.

In this case, Mr. Agyei-Amoama would not respond to the Commission on this matter. Insurance agents must be governable and amenable to being regulated. The Insurance Act imposes a duty on licensed persons to facilitate an examination. Responding to information requests is an attribute of a person suitable to be an insurance agent.

Since Mr. Agyei-Amoama has not requested a hearing, there are no explanations for his behaviour, nor is there any demonstrated interest in maintaining his licence as an insurance agent.

Accordingly considering the lack of suitability as demonstrated by the failure to facilitate an examination, the absence of the necessary insurance to protect the public and lack of any explanation for such behaviour, I believe that the appropriate penalty is revocation of Mr. Agyei-Amoama's licence as an insurance agent.

Accordingly, I hereby revoke the life insurance agent licence of

Kofi Owusu Agyei-Amoama.

Dated at Toronto, this twelfth day of November, 2010

Grant Swanson
Executive Director, Licensing and Market Conduct
by delegated Authority from
Superintendent of Financial Services

Schedule 1

The following allegations were set out in the Notice:

1. Mr. Agyei-Amoama demonstrated untrustworthiness to transact the business of insurance per section 8(d) of Regulation 347/04 by:
 - a. Failing to maintain errors and omissions insurance, as is required by Section 13 of Regulation 347/04.
 - b. Failing to respond, and/or failing to respond in a timely way, to repeated attempts by the Commission to obtain information concerning his errors and omissions coverage.
2. Mr. Agyei-Amoama is not otherwise suitable to continue his licence per section 4(1)(i) of Regulation 347/04 for the following reasons:
 - a. Mr. Agyei-Amoama failed to maintain errors and omissions insurance, as is required by Section 13 of Regulation 347/04.
 - b. Mr. Agyei-Amoama failed to respond, and/or failed to respond in a timely way, to repeated attempts by the Commission to obtain information concerning his errors and omissions coverage.