Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Insurance

Date: <u>09/03/2020</u>

Subject Considered:

Steven Harwell Owen
Hurst, Texas 76053-7865

Default Order SOAH Docket No. 454-20-4329.C TDI Enforcement File No. 21926

General remarks and official action taken:

This is a default order taken against Steven Harwell Owen (Respondent) because he failed to inform the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) of an administrative action taken against him by a financial or insurance regulator of this state, another state, or the United States; engaged in fraudulent or dishonest acts or practices; and willfully violated an insurance law of this state. Respondent did not respond to a Notice of Hearing filed by the TDI. This order revokes Respondent's license.

The following findings of fact and conclusions of law are adopted:

Findings of Fact

Failure to Respond to Notice of Hearing

- 1. On July 22, 2020, the department filed a Notice of Hearing, attached as Exhibit A, and an Original Petition, attached as Exhibit B, with the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- 2. The department's factual allegations set out in the attached Notice of Hearing and Original Petition are incorporated in this order as findings of fact.

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- 3. The department sent the Notice of Hearing and Original Petition to Respondent's last known address provided in writing to the department, TX 76053-7865. The Notice of Hearing and Original Petition were also sent by electronic mail.
- 4. Respondent failed to file a written response to the Notice of Hearing within 20 days of the date the Notice of Hearing and Original Petition were mailed.

Conclusions of Law

- 1. The commissioner has jurisdiction pursuant to Texas law, including Tex. INS. CODE §§ 82.051-82.055, 4001.002, 4005.101, 4005.102, and 4054.051, and Tex. Gov't Code §§ 2001.051-2001.178.
- 2. The commissioner has authority to dispose of this case informally pursuant to Tex. GOV'T CODE § 2001.056; Tex. Ins. CODE § 82.055; and 28 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§ 1.47, 1.88, and 1.89.
- 3. The department provided proper notice of the hearing pursuant to Tex. GOV'T CODE §§ 2001.051, 2001.052, and 2001.054, and 28 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§ 1.28, 1.88, 1.89, and 19.906.
- 4. Based on Respondent's failure to file a written response to the Notice of Hearing, the department is entitled to disposition by default pursuant to 28 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§ 1.88 and 1.89.
- 5. The department's factual and legal allegations set out in the attached Notice of Hearing and Original Petition are incorporated in this order and deemed admitted as true pursuant to 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 1.89.

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Order

It is ordered that Steven Harwell Owen's general lines agent license is revoked. A copy of this order will be provided to law enforcement and/or other appropriate administrative agencies for further investigation as may be warranted.

Kent C. Sullivan
Commissioner of Insurance

By: DocuSigned by:

Doug Slape

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Doug Slape
Chief Deputy Commissioner
Commissioner's Order No. 2018-5528

Prepared and reviewed by:

Kaycee Crisp, Staff Attorney

Enforcement Division

Kayoee Chisp

Commissioner's Order Steven Harwell Owen SOAH Docket No. 454-20-4329.C Page 4 of 5

Affidavit

STATE OF TEXAS §

S

COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Mary Ruiz, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"My name is Mary Ruiz and I am employed by the Texas Department of Insurance. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and have personal knowledge of these facts which are true and correct.

I have reviewed TDI's records concerning Steven Harwell Owen. I have confirmed that:

- a. The last mailing address provided to the department in writing by Steven Harwell Owen is Hurst, TX 76053-7865.
- b. The file maintained by the Enforcement Division contains a Notice of Hearing and Original Petition dated July 22, 2020, which were filed with the State Office of Administrative Hearings.
- c. On July 22, 2020, the Notice of Hearing and Original Petition addressed to Steven Harwell Owen were mailed certified, return receipt requested, to his last known address. The Notice of Hearing and Original Petition were also sent by electronic mail.

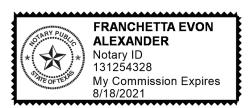
A copy of the certified mail log maintained by the Enforcement Division is attached as Exhibit C."

DocuSigned by	y:	
Mary Rui	3	
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Affiant		

Commissioner's Order Steven Harwell Owen SOAH Docket No. 454-20-4329.C Page 5 of 5

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me by means of an interactive two-way audio and video communication on 8/21/2020. This notarial act was an online notarization.

Notary Seal



Digital Certificate

Francista llexander

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Notary Public State of Texas

ACCEPTED 2020-6458 454-20-4329 7/22/2020 9:39 AM STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS Donnie Roland, CLERK FILED 454-20-4329 7/22/2020 9:21 AM STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS Donnie Roland, CLERK

SOAH DOCKET NO. 454-20-4329.C TDI ENFORCEMENT FILE NO. 21926

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE						
Petitioner							
v.	OF						
STEVEN HARWELL OWEN,	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS						
Respondent	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS						

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Texas Department of Insurance seeks to take disciplinary action against you. This Notice of Hearing and the Original Petition, which is attached and incorporated for all purposes, states the allegations against you and the relief sought by the Department.

A public hearing will be held before an Administrative Law Judge on **Monday, October 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.** The hearing will take place at the State Office of Administrative Hearings, located in the William P. Clements Building, 300 W. 15th Street, 4th Floor, Austin, Texas 78701.

The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to Tex. Gov'T Code, ch. 2001 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code, ch. 155. Unless otherwise directed by the Administrative Law Judge, the hearing shall continue from day to day in the offices of the State Office of Administrative Hearings until concluded. You have the right to appear at this hearing and to be represented by an attorney.

Parties that are not represented by an attorney may obtain information regarding contested case hearings on the public website of the State Office of Administrative Hearings at www.soah.texas.gov, or in printed format upon request to SOAH.

YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF HEARING WITH THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS WITHIN 20 DAYS OF THE DATE THE NOTICE OF HEARING WAS MAILED. FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE BY THIS DEADLINE SHALL ENTITLE TOI TO SEEK DISPOSITION BY DEFAULT PURSUANT TO 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.501 AND 28 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 1.88 AND 1.89.

Notice of Hearing Steven Harwell Owen SOAH Docket No. 454-20-4329.C Page 2 of 5

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE, THE SCHEDULED HEARING CAN BE CANCELED AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE CAN ISSUE AN ORDER IN WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING ARE DEEMED ADMITTED AS TRUE AND THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING, INCLUDING REVOCATION OF YOUR LICENSE IS GRANTED BY DEFAULT.

IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE BUT THEN FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DAY AND TIME SET FOR HEARING, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE CAN ISSUE AN ORDER IN WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING ARE DEEMED ADMITTED AS TRUE AND THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING, INCLUDING REVOCATION OF YOUR LICENSE IS GRANTED BY DEFAULT.

In accord with 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 1.90(e) and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 155.101 and 155.103, you should send copies of your written response to:

- (1) Docketing Division
 State Office of Administrative Hearings
 300 West 15th Street, Room 504
 P.O. Box 13025
 Austin, Texas 78711-3025
 (512) 322-2061 (Fax);
- (2) Chief Clerk
 Texas Department of Insurance
 P.O. Box 149104, MC112-2A
 Austin, Texas 78714-9104
 (512) 490-1064 (Fax)
 chiefclerk@tdi.texas.gov; and
- (3) Kaycee Crisp, Staff Attorney
 Texas Department of Insurance
 Enforcement Division, MC110-1A
 P.O. Box 149104
 Austin, Texas 78714-9104
 (512) 490-1020 (Fax)
 kaycee.crisp@tdi.texas.gov

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Receiving Documents

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) offers you the ability to receive service of orders and other documents issued by SOAH through email instead of by mail or fax. If you want to receive SOAH-issued documents by email, go to SOAH's website, www.soah.texas.gov, click on the "E-Services" tab, then click the "eFiling" hyperlink, and follow the instructions.

NOTE: A request to receive SOAH-issued documents by email does not change the procedures you must follow to file documents with SOAH. The rules for filing documents and providing copies to all other parties in the case are described in SOAH's Procedural Rules, which are available on SOAH's website. Click the "Agency" tab, then click "Administrative Rules and Laws" to view SOAH's Procedural Rules.

Important Security Notice

ALL VISITORS TO THE WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS BUILDING WITHOUT AN AGENCY OR DPS ISSUED ID CARD MUST PROVIDE THE BUILDING SECURITY OFFICER WITH THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DOCKET NUMBER AND RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS IN ORDER TO BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE HEARING ROOM. INDIVIDUALS SHOULD ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME TO GO THROUGH THE SECURITY PROCESS.

Notice of Hearing Steven Harwell Owen SOAH Docket No. 454-20-4329.C Page 4 of 5

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address or telephone number shown below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaycee Crisp

State Bar No. 24057368

Texas Department of Insurance

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Enforcement Division, MC110-1A

P.O. Box 149104

Austin, Texas 78714-9104

(512) 676-6327 (Direct)

(512) 490-1020 (Fax)

kaycee.crisp@tdi.texas.gov

ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Enclosure: Original Petition

cc: Leah Gillum, Deputy Commissioner, Enforcement Division, MC-110-1A

Rachel Cloyd, Litigation Director, Enforcement Division, MC-110-1A

Administrative Review, MC107-1A

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kaycee Crisp, certify that a true and correct copy of the *Notice of Hearing and the Original Petition* were sent by regular, first-class mail and by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by email, on this 22nd day of July, 2020 to:

Steven Harwell Owen

Hurst, TX 76053-7865 Respondent Pro Se Via CM/RRR No.:

9214 8901 9403 8317 0552 69

Via Email:

Laycee Crisp

Kaycee Crisp

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STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Donnie Roland, CLERK

454-20-4329

FILED 454-20-4329 7/21/2020 11:09 AM STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS Donnie Roland, CLERK

SOAH DOCKET NO. 454-_____ TDI ENFORCEMENT FILE NO. 21926

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE						
Petitioner							
v.	OF						
STEVEN HARWELL OWEN,	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS						
Respondent	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS						

ORIGINAL PETITION

The Texas Department of Insurance seeks to take disciplinary action against Steven Harwell Owen. In support of this petition, the department makes the following allegations upon information and belief:

Jurisdiction

The Commissioner of Insurance has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code §§ 82.051-82.055, 4001.002, 4005.101, 4005.102, and 4054.051, and Tex. Gov't Code §§ 2001.051-2001.178.

Factual Allegations

Licensure

1. Steven Harwell Owen ("Owen"), individual identification number 1113413, holds a general lines agent license with a life, accident, health, and HMO qualification issued by the Texas Department of Insurance ("TDI") on September 18, 2001.

Cancellation for Cause by Primerica

2. Owen was appointed as an agent by Primerica Life Insurance Company ("Primerica") from July 29, 2016, until September 14, 2018, when TDI was informed that his appointment with Primerica was cancelled for cause.

Original Petition Steven Harwell Owen Page 2 of 3

- 3. Owen served as a registered broker with PFS Investments ("PFSI") from October 2016 until August 2018.
- 4. On August 16, 2018, Owen was cancelled for cause from Primerica for engaging in an unapproved outside business activity or an undisclosed private securities transaction related to his work with PFSI.

FINRA Action

- 5. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) investigated Owen finding he had acted in violation of PFSI and FINRA rules in November 2016.
- 6. On November 6, 2018, FINRA sent Owen a Notice of Suspension. The Notice of Suspension requested his timely response.
- 7. Owen did not respond to FINRA's November 6, 2018, communication.
- 8. On November 30, 2018, FINRA sent Owen a Suspension from Association.
- 9. Owen did not respond to this November 30, 2018, communication or request termination of his suspension.
- 10. On February 11, 2019, FINRA barred Owen from FINRA membership.
- 11. Owen did not notify TDI of the action taken against him by FINRA.

Legal Allegations

- 1. Owen failed to inform TDI of an administrative action taken against him by a financial or insurance regulator of this state, another state, or the United States as contemplated by Tex. Ins. Code § 4001.252(a)(3).
- 2. Owen engaged in fraudulent or dishonest acts or practices, as contemplated by Tex. Ins. Code § 4005.101(b)(5).
- 3. Owen willfully violated an insurance law of this state, as contemplated by Tex. Ins. Code § 4005.101(b)(1).

Original Petition Steven Harwell Owen Page 3 of 3

Relief Sought

If one or more of the above allegations is found to be true, the department asks the Administrative Law Judge to enter a Proposal for Decision recommending that the Commissioner of Insurance issue an order:

- 1. revoking Owen's license and
- 2. any other just and appropriate relief to which the department may be entitled to by law, including any combination of the above actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaycee Crisp

Kaycee Crisp

State Bar No. 24057368

Texas Department of Insurance

Enforcement Division, MC110-1A

P.O. Box 149104

Austin, Texas 78714-9104

(512) 676-6327 (Direct)

(512) 490-1020 (Fax)

Kaycee.Crisp@tdi.texas.gov

ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE



Shipment Confirmation Acceptance Notice

Note to Mailer: The labels and volume associated to this form online, must match the labeled packages being presented to the USPS® employee with this form.

Shipment Date: 07/22/2020

Shipped From:

Name: MC 110-1A M RUIZ

Address: 333 GUADALIPE ST

City: AUSTIN

State: TX ZIP+4® 78701

Type of Mail	Volume
Priority Mail Express®*	
Priority Mail®	0
First-Class Package Service®	
Returns	
International*	
Other	1
Total	1

^{*}Start time for products with service guarantees will begin when mail arrives at the local Post Office™ and items receive individual processing and acceptance scans.

B. USPS Action

- Note to RSS Clerk:

 1. Home screen > Mailing/Shipping > More
- Select Shipment Confirm
 Scan or enter the barcode/label number from PS Form 5630
- Confirm the volume count message by selecting Yes or No
- Select Pay and End Visit to complete transaction

USPS EMPLOYEE: Please scan upon pickup or receipt of mail. Leave form with customer or in customer's mail receptacle.

USPS SCAN AT ACCEPTANCE



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