No. 2023-7991

Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Workers' Compensation

Date: 5/25/2023

Subject Considered:

Intrepid Insurance Company 5400 West 110th Street, Suite 400 Overland Park, Kansas 66211

Consent Order
DWC Enforcement File No. 31507

General remarks and official action taken:

This is a consent order with Intrepid Insurance Company (Respondent). The commissioner of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) considers whether DWC should take disciplinary action against Respondent.

Waiver

Respondent acknowledges that the Texas Labor Code and other applicable laws provide certain rights. Respondent waives all of these rights, and any other procedural rights that apply, in consideration of the entry of this consent order.

Findings of Fact

- 1. Respondent holds a certificate of authority issued by the Texas Department of Insurance to transact the business of insurance pursuant to Tex. Ins. Code § 801.051-801.053 and is licensed to write multiple lines of insurance in Texas, including workers' compensation/employers' liability insurance.
- 2. Respondent was not selected to be tiered in the 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, or 2022 Performance Based Oversight (PBO) assessments.

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Failure to Pay Accrued Impairment Income Benefits Based on a Designated Doctor Report

- 3. On Respondent received a report from a designated doctor (DD) in connection with a DD examination.
- 4. The DD determined that the injured employee was unable to work in any capacity from through
- 5. Respondent was required to pay accrued impairment income benefits (IIBs) no later than five days after receiving the DD report. The deadline to pay benefits was
- 6. Respondent paid IIBs totaling on including interest, which was 24 days late.

Assessment of Sanction

- 1. Failure to provide income benefits in a timely and cost-effective manner is harmful to injured employees and the Texas workers' compensation system.
- 2. In assessing the sanction for this case, DWC fully considered the following factors in Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021(c) and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(e):
 - the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, consequences, extent, and gravity of the prohibited act;
 - the history and extent of previous administrative violations;
 - the violator's demonstration of good faith, including actions it took to rectify the consequences of the prohibited act;
 - the penalty necessary to deter future violations;
 - whether the administrative violation had a negative impact on the delivery of benefits to an injured employee;
 - the history of compliance with electronic data interchange requirements;
 - to the extent reasonable, the economic benefit resulting from the prohibited act; and
 - other matters that justice may require, including, but not limited to:
 - PBO assessments;
 - o prompt and earnest actions to prevent future violations;
 - o self-report of the violation;
 - o the size of the company or practice;

Confidential Information Redacted Texas Labor Code §§402.083 and 402.092

- o the effect of a sanction on the availability of health care; and
- evidence of heightened awareness of the legal duty to comply with the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and DWC rules.
- 3. DWC found the following factors in Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021(c) and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(e) to be aggravating: the seriousness of the violation, including the nature, circumstances, consequences, extent, and gravity of the prohibited act and whether the administrative violation had a negative impact on the delivery of benefits to an injured employee.
- 4. DWC considered the following mitigating factor pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021(c) and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(e): no prior disciplinary history.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges communicating with DWC about the relevant statute and rule violations alleged; that the facts establish that the administrative violation(s) occurred; and that the proposed sanction is appropriate, including the factors DWC considered under Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021(c) and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(e).
- 6. Respondent acknowledges that, in assessing the sanction, DWC considered the factors in Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021(c) and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(e).

Conclusions of Law

- 1. The commissioner has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code §§ 402.001, 402.00114, 402.00116, 402.00128, 414.002, and 414.003.
- 2. The commissioner has the authority to dispose of this case informally pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 2001.056, Tex. Lab. Code §§ 401.021 and 402.00128(b)(6)-(7), and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 180.26(h) and (i).
- 3. Respondent has knowingly and voluntarily waived all procedural rights to which it may have been entitled regarding the entry of this order, including, but not limited to, issuance and service of notice of intent to institute disciplinary action, notice of hearing, a public hearing, a proposal for decision, a rehearing by the commissioner, and judicial review.

Confidential Information Redacted Texas Labor Code §§402.083 and 402.092

- 4. Pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code § 415.021, the commissioner may assess an administrative penalty against a person who commits an administrative violation.
- 5. Pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code § 415.002(a)(20), an insurance carrier or its representative commits an administrative violation each time it violates a DWC rule.
- 6. Pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code § 415.002(a)(22), an insurance carrier or its representative commits an administrative violation each time it fails to comply with a provision of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act.
- 7. Pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code §§ 408.081, 409.023, and 415.002(a)(16), an insurance carrier must pay benefits weekly, as and when the benefits accrue, without order from the commissioner.
- 8. Pursuant to Tex. Lab. Code § 408.0041(f), an insurance carrier must pay benefits based on the opinion of the DD during any pending dispute.
- 9. Pursuant to 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 127.10(h), an insurance carrier must pay all benefits in accordance with the DD report for the issues in dispute no later than five days after receiving the report.
- 10. Respondent violated Tex. Lab. Code §§ 409.023 and 415.002(a)(16), (20), and (22); and 28 Tex. Admin. Code § 127.10(h) by failing to timely pay accrued income benefits in accordance with the DD report no later than five days after receiving the report.

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Order

It is ordered that Intrepid Insurance Company must pay an administrative penalty of \$3,500 within 30 days from the date of this order. Intrepid Insurance Company must pay the administrative penalty by company check, cashier's check, or money order and make it payable to the "State of Texas." Mail the administrative penalty to the Texas Department of Insurance, Attn: DWC Enforcement Section, MC AO-9999, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, Texas 78711-2030.

Jeff Nelson Commissioner

TDI, Division of Workers' Compensation

Approved Form and Content:

Stephen 11. gewell

Stephen M. Jewell

Staff Attorney, Enforcement

Compliance and Investigations

TDI, Division of Workers' Compensation

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Unsworn Declaration

STATE OF Virginia	§		
COUNTY OF Prince William	§ §		
Pursuant to the Tex. Civ. Prac. Kevin Reap I hold	and Rem. Code the position of		d), my name is _ and am the
authorized representative of Intr 9301 Innovation Drive, Suite 200	•	ompany. My business ado , <u>Prince William VA 201</u>	
(Street)	(City)	(County) (State) (ZIP (Code)
I am executing this declaration as under penalty of perjury that the Declarant	. , ,	·	
Executed on May 22	2023.		