

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND REGULATION
DIVISION OF INSURANCE**

**IN THE MATTER OF
ARIEL TAYLOR**

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**FINAL DECISION
INS 23-054**

After reviewing the record and the proposed order of the Hearing Examiner in this matter,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to SDCL 1-26D-4, the Hearing Examiner's Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Proposed Order, dated March 6, 2024, is adopted in full.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the South Dakota Non-resident Insurance Producer License of the respondent will hereby be revoked.

Parties are hereby advised of the right to further appeal the final decision to Circuit Court within (30) days of receiving such decision, pursuant to the authority of SDCL 1-26.

Dated this 19 day of March, 2024.



Marcia Hultman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND REGULATION

IN THE MATTER OF
ARIEL TAYLOR

INS 23-054

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF PROPOSED
FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW,
AND DECISION AND FINAL DECISION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that attached hereto, is a true and correct copy of the Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision, and Final Decision entered by Marcia Hultman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, on March 19, 2024.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2024.



Callie A. Pospishil
Legal Counsel
South Dakota Division of Insurance
124 S. Euclid Ave., 2nd Floor
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3563

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Callie Pospishil, the undersigned, do hereby certify that on the date shown below, a true and correct copy of the Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision, and Final Decision with respect to the above-entitled action was sent U.S. Certified Mail, U.S. First Class Mail, and electronic mail thereon, to the following:

ARIEL TAYLOR
175 Berkeley St
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5066
Ariel.Taylor@libertymutual.com

Dated this 21st day of March, 2024 in Pierre, South Dakota.



Callie A. Pospishil
Legal Counsel
South Dakota Division of Insurance
124 S. Euclid Ave., 2nd Floor
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3563

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF HEARING EXAMINERS**

**IN THE MATTER OF
ARIEL TAYLOR**

**INS 23-054
PROPOSED DECISION**

This matter came for hearing before the Office of Hearing Examiners on February 9, 2024, pursuant to a Notice of Hearing issued by the South Dakota Division of Insurance (“Division”) on January 9, 2024. Callie A. Pospishil appeared as counsel for the Division. Ariel Taylor (“Taylor”) did not appear in person or through counsel. The Division admitted Exhibits 1 through 7 into evidence through its witness, Gavin Munson, and moved that the Hearing Examiner enter these Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Proposed Decision as a default disposition to this contested case.

ISSUE

Whether the Non-Resident Insurance Producer License of Ariel Taylor should be revoked due to providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application; violating the insurance laws of another state; having an insurance license suspended in another jurisdiction; and failing to respond to the Divisions inquiries, in violation of SDCL 58-30-167(1), (2), and (9), 58-30-193, and 58-33-66.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Taylor was licensed by the Division as an insurance producer on November 3, 2022. The license is currently active. (Exhibit 1).
2. Taylor was subject to administrative actions in the state of Florida. (Exhibits 2 and 3).
3. On June 9, 2023, the State of Florida fined Taylor due to failing to disclose criminal history on his license application. (Exhibit 2).
4. On August 18, 2023, the State of Florida suspended Taylor’s insurance producer license, due to failing to pay the previous fine. (Exhibit 3).
5. Taylor provided incorrect answers on his application regarding misdemeanor and felony criminal history. (Exhibit 4).
6. Taylor did not timely report the administrative action to the Division within 30 days.
7. The Division sent inquiries on August 29, 2023, September 19, 2023, and October 20, 2023, to the address of record regarding the licensure matters. (Exhibits 5-7).
8. Taylor did not provide a complete response to the Division’s inquiries. (Exhibits 5-7).
9. Any additional Findings of Fact included in the Reasoning section of this decision are incorporated herein by reference.
10. To the extent any of the foregoing are improperly designated and are instead conclusions of law, they are hereby redesignated and incorporated herein as conclusions of law.

REASONING

This case involves a request by the Division to revoke the South Dakota Non-Resident Insurance Producer's License of Ariel Taylor. As a consequence of the potential loss of Respondent's livelihood from the lack of licensure, the burden of proof in this matter is higher than the preponderance of evidence standard, which applies in a typical administrative hearing. "In matters concerning the revocation of a professional license, we determine that the appropriate standard of proof to be utilized by an agency is clear and convincing evidence." *In re Zar*, 434 N.W.2d 598, 602 (S.D. 1989). Our Supreme Court has defined "clear and convincing evidence" as follows:

The measure of proof required by this designation falls somewhere between the rule in ordinary civil cases and the requirement of our criminal procedure, that is, it must be more than a mere preponderance but not beyond a reasonable doubt. It is that measure or degree of proof which will produce in the mind of the trier of facts a firm belief or conviction as to the allegations sought to be established. The evidence need not be voluminous or undisputed to accomplish this.

Brown v. Warner, 78 S.D. 647, 653, 107 NW2d 1, 4 (1961).

SDCL 58-30-193 states that "[A]n insurance producer shall report to the director any administrative action taken against the insurance producer in another jurisdiction... within thirty days of the final disposition of the matter. This report shall include a copy of the order, consent order, or other relevant legal documents." SDCL 58-33-66(1) requires Ariel Taylor to respond to the Division and supply requested documents within twenty days from the receipt of a request. Also, the Division considers SDCL 58-30-167 (shown in pertinent part) as follows:

The director may... revoke or refuse to continue, any license issued under this chapter... after a hearing... The director may... revoke... an insurance producer's license... for any one or more of the following causes:

- (1) Providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application;
- (2) Violating any insurance laws or rules, subpoena, or order of the director or of another state's insurance director, commissioner, or superintendent;
- (9) Having an insurance producer license, or its equivalent, denied, suspended, or revoked in any other state, province, district, or territory;

The evidence indicates that Ariel Taylor violated the insurance laws of South Dakota and another jurisdiction by providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application; had a license suspended in other jurisdictions, failed to report all the administrative actions, and failed to respond to Division inquiries regarding the actions. Applying the law to the Findings of Fact, it is clear the Non-Resident Insurance Producer License of Ariel Taylor is subject to revocation and should be revoked.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


1. The Division has jurisdiction over Ariel Taylor and the subject matter of this contested case. The Office of Hearing Examiners is authorized to conduct the hearing and issue a proposed decision pursuant to SDCL 1-26D-4.
2. The Division bears the burden of establishing the alleged statutory violations by clear and convincing evidence.
3. The Division established by clear and convincing evidence that Ariel Taylor violated SDCL 58-30-193.
4. The Division established by clear and convincing evidence that Ariel Taylor violated SDCL 58-33-66.
5. The Division established by clear and convincing evidence that the South Dakota Non-Resident Insurance Producer License Ariel Taylor is subject to revocation pursuant to SDCL 58-30-167(1), (2), and (9).
6. Any additional Conclusions of Law included in the Reasoning section of this decision are incorporated herein by reference.
7. To the extent any of the foregoing are improperly designated and are instead findings of fact, they are hereby redesignated and incorporated herein as Findings of Fact.

Based on the above Findings of Fact, Reasoning, and Conclusions of Law, the Hearing Examiner enters the following:

PROPOSED DECISION

The South Dakota Non-Resident Insurance Producer License of Ariel Taylor should be revoked.

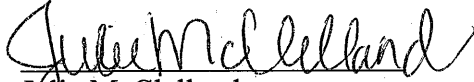
Dated this 6th day of March, 2024.



Ryan Darling
Hearing Examiner
Office of Hearing Examiners
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify on March 6, 2024, at Pierre, South Dakota, a true and correct copy of this Proposed Decision was mailed to each of the parties below.



Julie McClelland
Legal Secretary
Office of Hearing Examiners

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Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5066
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