



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON  
COMMISSIONER

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**  
**SUMMARY SUSPENSION**  
**PRODUCER LICENSE #708801**

January 20, 2022

Houston Thomas  
17505 Jefferson Hwy. Apt 907  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Article # 7020 0640 0001 4919 6362

Houston Thomas  
8841 Bluebonnet Blvd. Ste. F.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-2847

Article# 7020 0640 0001 4919 6355

Via Email: hueythomas4513@gmail.com

WHEREAS, IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION, as Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner) of the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI), that Houston Thomas, a person licensed to do business in Louisiana, has violated certain provisions of the Louisiana Insurance Code, Title 22, La. R.S. 22:1 et seq. As used hereinafter, "you" and "your" refer to Houston Thomas. Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Commissioner, I issue this Cease and Desist Order and Summary Suspension based of the following, to wit:

You were licensed by the Louisiana Department of Insurance as an insurance producer (License #708801) on September 27, 2016. Your producer license is currently active.

LDI received information and documentation indicating that on January 3, 2021, Mr. Rico Curry contacted United Companies Insurance Corporation inquiring as to why his flood policy did not renew. Mr. Curry informed United Companies Insurance Corporation that forced flood insurance coverage was placed on his insured property located at 12023 Central Park Dr. Geismar, LA by the lender.

Upon further investigation, it was learned that you submitted a forged Johnson & Johnson flood policy declarations page for policy #HPF30096458 to Mr. Curry's lender, Gateway Mortgage Group, LLC. The forged declarations page lists "Location #1" as 19515 River Breeze Dr. Baton Rouge, LA, 70816, which is not Mr. Curry's address. We confirmed that the property at 19515 River Breeze Dr. Baton Rouge, LA, 70816 is insured by Johnson & Johnson where the insured is listed as J. Darbonne. This indicates that Mr. Curry's declarations page is a fraudulently altered copy of Mr. Darbonne's declarations page. Additionally, flood policies are issued for one year of coverage, however, the declarations page submitted to Gateway Mortgage Group, LLC lists the policy period from August 24, 2020 to January 24, 2021. Johnson and Johnson have no record of policy number HPF30096458.

La. R.S. 22:2 provides in pertinent part:

**§ 2. Insurance regulated in the public interest**

- (1) Insurance is an industry affected with the public interest and it is the purpose of this Code to regulate that industry in all its phases. [I]t shall be the duty of the commissioner of insurance to administer the provisions of this Code.

La. R.S. 22:18 maintains in pertinent part:

**§18. Suspension or revocation of insurer's licenses; fines; orders**

- A. The commissioner of insurance may, as a penalty, in accordance with R.S. 49:961, refuse to renew, or may suspend, or revoke the certificate of authority or license of an insurer, person, or entity violating any of the provisions of this Code, or in lieu of suspension or revocation of a certificate or license duly issued, the commissioner may levy a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation per insurer, person, or entity, up to one hundred thousand dollars aggregate for all violations in a calendar year per insurer, person, or entity, when such violations warrant the refusal, suspension, or revocation of such certificate or license, or the imposition of the fine. The commissioner is also authorized to order any insurer, person, or entity to cease and desist any such action that violates any provision of this code.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:1554, the Commissioner is authorized to take certain regulatory actions against any person who is ...charged with a violation of this Part of Chapter 5, Producers and Other Regulated Entities Part I. Producers. These actions are designed to assist the Commissioner in administering the provisions of the Insurance Code.

La. R.S. 22:1554 maintains in pertinent part:

**§ 1554. License denial, nonrenewal, or revocation**

- A. The commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue, renew, or reinstate an insurance producer license, or may levy a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars for each violation occurring, up to ten thousand dollars for each violation aggregate for all violations in a calendar year per applicant or licensee, or any combination of actions, for any one or more of the following causes:

- (3) The failure to account for or remit any premiums, monies, or properties belonging to another which come into the possession of the applicant in the course of doing insurance business, or improperly withholding, misappropriating, converting, or failing to timely remit any premiums, monies, or properties received in the course of doing insurance business, whether such premiums, monies, or properties belonging to policyholders, insurers, beneficiaries, claimants, or others.

(4) Using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices or misrepresentation, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business such as might endanger the public.

(6) Having admitted or been found to have committed any insurance unfair trade practice under R.S. 22:1961 et seq. or fraud under R.S. 22:1964 et seq.

(14) The violation of any insurance laws of the United States, this state or any state, province, district, or territory, or violating any lawful rule, regulation, subpoena, or order of the commissioner of insurance or of the insurance officials of another state.

La. R.S. 22:1923 provides in pertinent part:

**§ 1923. Definitions**

(2) "Fraudulent insurance act" shall include but not be limited to acts or omissions committed by any person who, knowingly and with intent to defraud:

(a) Presents, causes to be presented, or prepares with knowledge or belief that it will be presented to or by an insurer, reinsurer, purported insurer or reinsurer, producer, or any agent thereof, any oral or written statement which he knows to contain materially false information as part of, or in support of, or denial of, or concerning any fact material to or conceals any information concerning any fact material to the following:

(iv) Premiums paid on any insurance policy.

(h) Manufactures, sells, distributes, presents, or causes to be presented a fraudulent proof of insurance card or document.

La. R.S. 22:1924 maintains in pertinent part:

**§ 1924 Prohibited activities and sanctions**

A. (1) Any person who, with the intent to injure, defraud, or deceive any insurance company, or the Department of Insurance, or any insured or other party in interest, or any third-party claimant commits any of the acts specified in Paragraph (2) or (3) of this Subsection is guilty of a felony and shall be subjected to a term of imprisonment, with or without hard labor, not to exceed five years, or a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars, or both, on each count and payment of restitution to the victim company of any insurance payments to the defendant that the court determines was not owed and the costs incurred by the victim company associated with the evaluation and defense of the fraudulent claim, including but not limited to the investigative costs, attorney fees, and court costs. However, if the benefit pursued does not exceed one thousand dollars, the term of imprisonment shall not exceed six months, or the fine shall not exceed one thousand dollars, or both, on each count.

(2) The following acts shall be punishable as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection:

(a) Committing any fraudulent insurance act as defined in R.S. 22:1923.

The Louisiana Insurance Code, Title 22, La. R.S. 22:1 et seq., authorizes the Commissioner to investigate the affairs and professional conduct of every person engaged in the business of insurance to determine whether such person has been or is engaged in any unfair or deceptive act or practice prohibited by the Louisiana Insurance Code. It is determined that Houston Thomas has committed the violations of the Louisiana Insurance Code as listed above.

La. R.S. 22:1964 provides in pertinent part:

**§ 1964. Methods, acts and practices which are defined as unfair or deceptive**

The following are declared to be unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance:

(12) Any violation of any prohibitory law of this state.

(13) Fraudulent Insurance act. A fraudulent insurance act is one committed by a person who knowingly and with intent to defraud presents, causes to be presented, or prepares with knowledge or believes that it will be presented to or by an insurer, purported insurer, producer, or any agent thereof, any written statement as part of, or in support of, or in opposition to an application for the issuance of, or the rating of an insurance policy for commercial insurance, or a claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy for commercial or personal insurance which he knows to contain materially false information concerning any fact material thereto; or conceal for the purpose of misleading information concerning any fact material thereto.

The Louisiana Insurance Code, Title 22, La. R.S. 22:1 et seq., authorizes the Commissioner to investigate the affairs and professional conduct of every person engaged in the business of insurance to determine whether such person has been or is engaged in any unfair or deceptive act or practice prohibited by the Louisiana Insurance Code. It is determined that Houston Thomas has committed the violations of the Louisiana Insurance Code as listed above.

**VIOLATIONS:**

While conducting insurance business in Louisiana as a licensed producer, Houston Thomas, acted with intent and full knowledge of the aforementioned facts by manufacturing and a fraudulent insurance policy declarations page and submitting the fraudulent document to a lender. These actions constitute violations of La. R.S. 22:1554(A)(3), (4), (6) and (14); La. R.S. 22:1562(D)(2); La. R.S. 22:1924(A)(2)(a) as defined by La. R.S. 22:1923(2)(d)(i); and 22:1964(12) and (13).

**COMMISSIONER'S ACTION:**

As a result of the investigation and documentation in possession of the LDI, and in accordance with La. R.S. 22:18, La. R.S. 22:1554(A) and La. R.S. 49:961(C), determination has been rendered that you are in violation of the statutes listed above and the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, therefore, you are a danger to the insurance buying public to such a degree that the Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance hereby orders you, **Houston Thomas**, to **CEASE AND DESIST** from conducting the business of insurance, and Louisiana Insurance Producer License Number **708801** is hereby **SUSPENDED** effective immediately.

**YOUR ACTION:**

Be advised that this constitutes an administrative action and that it will be reported to the National Insurance Producer Registry. You may need to report this administrative action to other states in which you hold an active license. Contact that state's insurance department if you are unsure of the requirements.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2191(A)(2), any person aggrieved by an act of the Commissioner may request a hearing. You must make a written demand for an appeal within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. Failure to file a written demand for an appeal within thirty (30) days of this notice will preclude your right to an administrative hearing. Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2191(B), your written demand for an appeal (1) shall reference the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved; (2) shall provide a short and plain statement of the matters asserted for review; and (3) shall attach a copy of the order or decision that you are appealing. Appealing this notice does not stay the action of the Commissioner of Insurance. Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:2204 you must request and be granted a stay of this action by the Division of Administrative Law. Your request for a stay may be included in your appeal. Your written demand for an appeal shall be filed with the Louisiana Department of Insurance at the addresses below:

Louisiana Department of Insurance  
Attn: J. David Caldwell, Executive Counsel  
P. O. Box 94214  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214

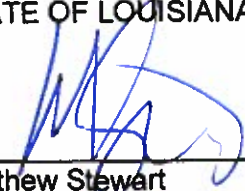
Telephone: (225) 342-4673  
Fax: (225) 342-1632

File in Person at:  
1702 N. Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

JAMES J. DONELON  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

BY:



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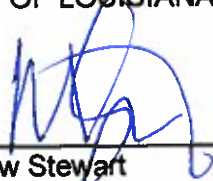
Matthew Stewart  
Deputy Commissioner  
Divisions of Fraud & Enforcement  
Louisiana Department of Insurance  
Telephone: (225) 219-5819

Houston Thomas  
License #708801  
January 20, 2022  
Cease and Desist Order and Summary Suspension  
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Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

JAMES J. DONELON  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

BY:

  
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Matthew Stewart  
Deputy Commissioner  
Divisions of Fraud & Enforcement  
Louisiana Department of Insurance  
Telephone: (225) 219-5819

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Article # 7020 0640 0001 4919 6362

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I hereby certify that I have served this Cease and Desist Order, Summary Suspension upon Houston Thomas via the U. S. Postal Service return receipt requested, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

*Heath Soileau*

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Heath Soileau, Compliance Investigator