### STATE OF ARIZONA

Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions
FILED February 16, 2024 by AS

### **STATE OF ARIZONA**

## **DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

In the Matter of:

PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, INC. A/K/A PISOLUTIONS, LLC

No. 23A-039-INS

**ORDER** 

Respondent.

On February 5, 2024, the Office of Administrative Hearings, through Administrative Law Judge Kay A. Abramsohn, issued an Administrative Law Judge Decision ("Recommended Decision"). The Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions' ("Department") Executive Deputy Director ("EDD") received the Recommended Decision on the same date, a copy of which is attached and incorporated by reference. Respondent failed to accept the Recommended Decision within ten days of receipt. Therefore, the EDD has reviewed the Recommended Decision and enters the following:

- 1. The Department ADOPTS the Findings of Fact,
- 2. The Department ADOPTS the Conclusions of Law,
- 3. The Department ADOPTS the Recommended Order, and
- 4. The Department ORDERS that the Cease and Desist Order dated July 14, 2023, is affirmed. The Department further ORDERS that Respondent's appeal is denied.

### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS**

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 41-1092.09, Respondent may request a rehearing or review with respect to this Order by filing a written motion with the Department within 30 days after the date of this Order, setting forth the basis for relief under Arizona Administrative Code R20-6-114(B). Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.09, it is not necessary to request a rehearing before filing an appeal to the Superior Court.

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Order; 23A-039-INS Continued

Respondent may appeal the final decision of the Department to the Superior Court of Maricopa County for judicial review, pursuant to A.R.S. § 20-166. A party filing an appeal must notify the Office of Administrative Hearings of the appeal within ten days after filing the complaint commencing the appeal, pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-904(B).

DATED and EFFECTIVE this 16th day of February, 2024.

# Barbara D. Richardson

Barbara D. Richardson
Cabinet Executive Officer
Executive Deputy Director
Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions

Order; 23A-039-INS

Continued

1	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed electronically this 16th day of February, 2024, to:
2	
3	https://portal.azoah.com/submission
4	Office of Administrative Hearings
5	COPY of the foregoing delivered the same date, to:
6	Deian Ousounov, Chief Financial Deputy Director
7	Alena Caravetta, Regulatory Legal Affairs Officer Ana Starcevic, Paralegal Project Specialist
8	Steven Fromholtz, Licensing Division Manager
9	Aqueelah Currie, Licensing Supervisor Linda Lutz, Legal Assistant
10	Wendy Greenwood, Investigations Supervisor Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions
11	100 North 15th Avenue, Suite 261
12	Phoenix, Arizona 85007
13	COPY mailed the same date by U.S First Class and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:
14	Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc.
15	a/k/a PISolutions, LLC
16	Attn: Douglas B. Gregg 1214 Temple Crest Drive
17	Franklin, TN 37069
18	Respondent 9489 0090 0027 6486 6592 19
19	COPY sent via electronic mail this same date to:
20	Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc.
21	PISolutions, LLC
22	Attn: Douglas B. Gregg ben@pisolutionspro.com
23	ben.gregg@hotmail.com
24	Respondent
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### IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

In the Matter of:

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28 29 No. 23A-039-INS

Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc., Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

HEARING: October 27, 2023 and January 22, 2024.

<u>APPEARANCES</u>: Douglas B. Gregg represented Respondent Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc. (Respondent). Assistant Attorney General James M. Rolstead represented the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (Department).

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kay A. Abramsohn

**EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE**: Department Exhibits 1 through 15; Respondent Exhibits A through E.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc. (Respondent) is an entity registered with the Tennessee Division of Business Services.<sup>1</sup> Douglas Benjamin Gregg (Gregg) is the member manager and registered agent of Respondent. Respondent has three owners: Gregg, Rich DeLuca, and Gary Dunham.<sup>2</sup>
- 2. On May 24, 2023, the Department received an email from Jacqueline Ward, an Arizona nurse practitioner, who expressed her concerns regarding a professional liability insurance quote she received from Ben Gregg.<sup>3</sup>
- 3. In her complaint, Ms. Ward states, in part,

[H]is company is listed as Professional Insurance Solutions Inc. with the website www.pisolutionspro.com. He was referred to me by my daughter who has several friends who are esthetic nurses who purchased liability insurance from him.

[Gregg] quoted me a very reduced rate compared to other quotes I received. When I asked him for a PDF showing coverage with inclusions and exclusions, as well as who the insurance carrier was, he became very elusive and vague with his answers and stated that his company is the carrier ... I am just concerned that there are nurses who think they are covered with malpractice insurance and indeed might not be.

<sup>3</sup> See Exhibit 1.

Office of Administrative Hearings 1740 West Adams Street, Lower Level Phoenix, Arizona 85007 (602) 542-9826

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc. is also known as PISolutions LLC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Exhibit 15.

4. Ms. Ward also forwarded to the Department an email she received from Ben Gregg on May 23, 2023 which stated, in part:

I believe we discussed that PISolutions is the carrier and the quote is \$2850. With the 5% full-pay discount the annual premium is \$2707. I have attached a sample policy.<sup>4</sup>

- 5. The sample policy attached to Ben Gregg's email shows Respondent as the carrier which is providing Medspa Professional Liability Coverage.<sup>5</sup>
- 6. Upon searching the website provided by Ms. Ward in her email, the Department found, among the information displayed, the following:
  - "Your Top Rated Local ® Professional Liability Insurance"
  - The homepage stated, "[b]y offering medical liability insurance for dentists, med spa owners, chiropractors, psychologists, psychiatrists and wellness centers, Professional Insurance Solutions helps small business owners with comprehensive liability insurance protection against both errors and omissions and product liability claims."
  - Under "About Us" is the statement, "[a]s a captive small business liability insurance company, our coverage risk is pooled only with others who practice within the same profession. This helps to keep our medical liability insurance rates low."
  - Under "Our Services" is the statement, "[w]ith years of knowledge behind us, we are the experts to turn to when looking for insurance for your small business. Profession Insurance Solution's comprehensive risk management program allows us to offer greater discounts, and our in-house approach and online quoting system reduces operating expenses that we pass on to you."
- 7. During its investigation, the Department conducted a license search on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) database for "Ben Gregg." The search revealed that his full name is Douglas B. Gregg (Gregg) and that he holds a resident insurance producer license in Tennessee, National Producer Number 7712404. The Department's search further revealed that Gregg was not licensed in any other state or U.S. territory.
- 8. "PISolutions, LLC" has been registered with the Tennessee Secretary of State, Division of Business Services, as a domestic limited liability company since October 10,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Exhibit 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Exhibit 3.

2016. Neither "Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc." nor "PISolutions, LLC" is licensed as an insurance producer business entity in any state or U.S. territory.

- 9. Neither "Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc." nor "PISolutions, LLC" is registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission. However, Ms. Ward's email and the information she provided demonstrated that, in fact, Respondent was transacting insurance business in the State of Arizona.<sup>6</sup>
- 10. On June 9, 2023, the Department sent an email to Gregg requesting that he provide the authority under which he is actively selling insurance policies in Arizona and who the carrier is for the insurance policies.<sup>7</sup>
- 11. On June 12, 2023, the Department's investigator spoke with Gregg by telephone. The following day, the investigator sent an email to Gregg summarizing the telephone conversation. The summary included the following:
  - You confirmed that at present you are only licensed as an insurance producer (individual) in TN.
  - You confirmed that your company...is not a licensed insurance producer (entity) but the company is registered with the TN Secretary of State.
  - You advised that you are an 'offshore captive' agent.
  - To the best of your recollection, you sold your first professional liability policy to an AZ consumer in 2018-19. (Please confirm).

The Department's investigator also reminded Gregg to submit a written response to the Department's June 9, 2023 correspondence.

- 12. In June 2023, Gregg applied for and was issued an Arizona non-resident insurance producer license, National Producer Number 7712404, effective June 17, 2023.8
- 13. On June 20, 2023, Gregg provided to the Department a list of 37 names and corresponding email addresses for Arizona consumers with whom Respondent has made contracts of insurance since January 1, 2023.
- 14. The Department contacted some names on the list and obtained and reviewed several contracts of insurance that had been made by Respondent with those Arizona consumers. The Department found that some of the contracts were made in 2023 and have expiration dates in 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 20-106.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Exhibit 7.

<sup>8</sup> See Exhibit 9.

15. Gregg provided to the Department a copy of Respondent's Certificate of Renewal (Certificate) from the Island of Nevis (Nevis), Financial Services Regulation and Supervision Department, Office of the Registrar of International Insurance. The Certificate has an expiration date of December 31, 2023.<sup>9</sup> The Certificate states as follows:

Professional Insurance Solutions, Inc. is duly registered to carry on Insurance Business in the class of Captive Insurer from within the Island of Nevis in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the Ordinance.

- 16. The Department's Chief Captive Analyst verified with Simone Ottley, the Nevis Registrar of International Insurance, that the Nevis Certificate issued was for Pure Captive Insurance and not for Association Captive insurance.
- 17. On July 14, 2023, the Department issued an Order to Cease and Desist (CD Order) against Respondent, prohibiting Respondent from effectuating new or renewal contracts of insurance in Arizona and collecting premiums.<sup>10</sup> The CD Order also required Respondent to mail Notices of Cancelation to all current policyholders by August 13, 2023, including the return of any unearned premiums.
- 18. On August 2, 2023, the Department received a Notice of Appearance and Request for Hearing contesting the CD Order and requesting a hearing.<sup>11</sup>
- 19. The Department's position is that Respondent was not authorized to issue its policies in Arizona because (a) at the time of some policy issuances, Respondent did not have any license to transact insurance business in Arizona, and (B) subsequently, Respondent did not have the appropriate Arizona licensing authority. The Department argued that Respondent's Certificate of Captive Insurance licensure in Nevis allows Respondent to issue policies only to Respondent's owners; further, that Respondent's three owners are the only members of Respondent.<sup>12</sup>
- 20. Respondent's position is that his licensing authority through Nevis is not Pure Captive but is an Association Captive licensure, which allows Respondent's to issue this particular insurance to its "Association" MedSpa members. Respondent argued that its policies are only issued to MedSpa owners who fully understand the nature and breadth of the policy they obtain and that they join the "association" to have some tax advantages

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Exhibit 11.

<sup>10</sup> See Exhibit 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The attorney who filed the appearance subsequently withdrew as Respondent's representative. During the time this matter has been in the administrative process, the parties have had informal discussions regarding this appeal and other Arizona licensure options; however, the parties were unable to resolve the matters informally. See Exhibit E.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Department's Chief Captive Analyst verified with Simone Ottley, the Nevis Registrar of International Insurance, that the Nevis Certificate issued was for Pure Captive Insurance and not for Association Captive insurance.

and to take advantage of lower insurance rates.<sup>13</sup> Regarding "transacting business," Respondent argued that Respondent does not have an office, does not advertise, and does not solicit business in Arizona; Gregg described their activities as "taking orders" for insurance policies.

- 21. Regarding the Nevis Certificate, Respondent argued that their April 2016 application in Nevis for registration and licensing was for Association Captive authority.<sup>14</sup>
- 22. Respondent presented no evidence showing that the Arizona consumers (*i.e.*, MedSpa owners and professionals) with whom Respondent made contracts of insurance have any ownership interest in or affiliation with Respondent or with Respondent's three owners. Respondents did not provide any certificate of authority authorizing Respondent to issue insurance policies to individuals who are not affiliated with Respondent or with Respondent's three owners.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Department was created and enabled to administer certain laws of the State of Arizona by protecting the public interest through licensure and regulation of the insurance producer profession in this state. See A.R.S. § 20-142 and A.R.S. §§ 20-281 et seq.
- 2. The Office of Administrative Hearings has subject matter and personal jurisdiction over the named parties in this Notice of Hearing. See A.R.S. § 20-161 and A.R.S. §§ 41-1092 et seq.
- 3. Based on the hearing record, Respondent's conduct, as described in the Findings of Fact, constitutes engaging in the business of making contracts of insurance indemnification in this State, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 20-103, 20-104, and 20-106.
- 4. Based on the hearing record, Respondent's conduct, as described in the Findings of Fact, constitutes the following violations:
  - (a) the transaction of insurance in this state without complying with the applicable provisions of A.R.S. Title 20, in violation of A.R.S. § 20-107.26;
  - (b) transacting insurance in this state without the authorization to do so granted by the Director, in violation of A.R.S. § 20-206; and,
  - (c) the unlawful transaction of insurance business in this state without a certificate of authority from the Director, within the meaning of A.R.S. § 20-401.01(A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> In this regard, Respondent argued that the final page of its policies require the consumer to acknowledge such. See Exhibit A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See Exhibit C, which demonstrates that Respondent did apply for that category; however, Nevis did not issue a Certificate for that category. Respondent provided a 2013 business plan for different company; however, that documents provides no evidence with regard to a 2016 application. See Exhibit B.

Based on the hearing record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the 1 Department's CD Order was appropriately issued and should be affirmed, while Respondent's appeal should be denied. 2 3 **RECOMMENDED ORDER** 4 IT IS ORDERED the Department's Cease and Desist Order dated July 14, 2023, 5 is affirmed and Respondent's appeal is denied. 6 Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.08(I), the licensee may accept the 7 Administrative Law Judge Decision by advising the Office of Administrative Hearings in writing not more than ten (10) days after receiving the decision. If the licensee accepts the Administrative Law Judge Decision, the decision shall be 9 certified as the final decision by the Office of Administrative Hearings. 10 In the event of certification of the Administrative Law Judge Decision by the 11 Director of the Office of Administrative Hearings, the effective date of the Order will be forty (40) days from the date of that certification. 12 13 Done this day, February 5, 2024. 14 /s/ Kay A. Abramsohn 15 Administrative Law Judge 16 17 Transmitted electronically to: 18 Barbara D. Richardson, Director 19 Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions - Insurance 20 Assistant Attorneys General AdminLaw@azag.gov 21 James.Rolstead@azag.gov 22 Lynette.Evans@azag.gov 23 PISolutions, LLC 24 Attn: Douglas B. Gregg ben@pisolutionspro.com 25 ben.gregg@hotmail.com 26 27 By: OAH Staff 28 29