

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2014039881901**

TO: Department of Enforcement
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA")

RE: William Oscar Hardy, Respondent
Former Registered Representative
CRD No. 1444999

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, I submit this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent ("AWC") for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, FINRA will not bring any future actions against me alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. I hereby accept and consent, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:

BACKGROUND

William Oscar Hardy ("Hardy") first became registered with FINRA in December 1985 when he obtained his Series 6 license. Hardy became registered with NYLife Securities LLC ("NYLife") in May 2002. Hardy's registration with NYLife was terminated on March 12, 2014.

Although Hardy is no longer associated with a FINRA member firm, FINRA retains jurisdiction over him pursuant to Article V. Section 4(a), of the FINRA By-Laws.

OVERVIEW

From May 5, 2013 through July 17, 2013 (the "relevant period"), while registered with NYLife, Hardy misused customer insurance premium funds, causing the customer's policy to lapse. Hardy's misuse of funds violated FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

During the relevant period, Hardy received funds totaling \$658 in premium payments for the fixed life insurance policy of an insurance customer. Instead of using the funds to pay the premium, Hardy applied some of the funds to other insurance policies held by the customer's daughter and son-in-law. Hardy also deposited some of the customer's funds into his personal business checking account. As a result of Hardy's actions, the customer's policy lapsed.

FINRA Rule 2010 provides that, "[a] member, in the conduct of his business, shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade. By reason of Hardy's misuse of his insurance customer funds, Hardy violated FINRA Rule 2010.

- B. I also consent to the imposition of the following sanctions:

A bar from associating with any member firm in any and all capacities.

I understand that if I am barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, I become subject to a statutory disqualification as that term is defined in Article III, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws, incorporating Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, I may not be associated with any FINRA member in any capacity, including clerical or ministerial functions, during the period of the bar or suspension (see FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311).

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff. Pursuant to FINRA Rule 8313(e), a bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

I specifically and voluntarily waive the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against me;
- B. To be notified of the Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and
- D. To appeal any such decision to the National Adjudicatory Council ("NAC") and

then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, I specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim bias or prejudice of the Chief Legal Officer, the NAC, or any member of the NAC, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

I further specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

I understand that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs ("ODA"), pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against me; and
- C. If accepted:
 - 1. this AWC will become part of my permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future actions brought by FINRA or any other regulator against me;
 - 2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313;
 - 3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and
 - 4. I may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. I may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, that is

inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects my: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.

I certify that I have read and understand all of the provisions of this AWC and have been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; that I have agreed to its provisions voluntarily; and that no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce me to submit it.

04/16/2015
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

William Oscar Hardy
Respondent, William Oscar Hardy

Accepted by FINRA:

5/4/15
Date

Signed on behalf of the
Director of ODA, by delegated authority

CC
Carolyn Craig
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FINRA Department of Enforcement
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