

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 20140418738 01**

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

RE: Darrel L. Kurtz, Respondent
Former General Securities Representative
CRD No. 4398814

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

Kurtz was registered as a General Securities Representative with Thrivent Investment Management Inc. ("Thrivent"), a FINRA-registered firm, between May 2001 and June 2014. Kurtz is not currently associated with any FINRA-registered firm.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Kurtz has no disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

Kurtz forged the signatures of seven customers on nine documents, in violation of FINRA Rule 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

1. On or about May 21, 2010, Kurtz completed LS's signature on an IRA variable deferred annuity application, with the knowledge and consent of LS, to accommodate LS's schedule.
2. On or about December 2, 2013, Kurtz signed WK's signature on an account withdrawal request form, without the customer's knowledge and consent, after Kurtz discovered that the signature pad that he used to obtain the customer's signature was not working when the customer signed the documents.
3. On or about December 3, 2010, Kurtz signed SM's signature on two subaccount transfer selection forms and TM's signature on one subaccount transfer selection form, without the customers' knowledge and consent, after he discovered that the signature pad he used to obtain the customers' signatures was not working when the customers signed the documents.
4. On or about March 13, 2013, Kurtz signed BK's signature on a variable annuity application and KK's signature on two variable annuity applications without the customers' knowledge and consent, after he discovered that the signature pad he used to obtain the customers' signatures was not working when the customers signed the documents.
5. On or about November 3, 2013, Kurtz signed CM's signature on a fixed settlement option election application, with the knowledge and consent of CM, to accommodate CM's schedule.
6. The firm's written supervisory procedures prohibited representatives from signing documents on behalf of customers, even with the customer's consent.

As a result of the foregoing conduct, Kurtz violated FINRA Rule 2010.

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

A \$5,000 fine and a suspension from association with any FINRA member firm in all capacities for three months.

The fine shall be due and payable either immediately upon reassociation with a member firm following the three month suspension noted above, or prior to any application or request for relief from any statutory disqualification resulting from this or any other event or proceeding, whichever is earlier.

I specifically and voluntarily waive any right to claim that I am unable to pay,

now or at any time hereafter, the monetary sanction imposed in this matter.

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.

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 prejudgment 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.**
- D. I may attach a Corrective Action Statement to this AWC that is a statement of demonstrable corrective steps taken to prevent future misconduct. I understand that I may not deny the charges or make any statement that is inconsistent with the AWC in this Statement. This Statement does not constitute factual or legal findings by FINRA, nor does it reflect the views of FINRA or its staff.**

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.

06/01/2015
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Darrel L. Kurtz
Darrel L. Kurtz, Respondent

Reviewed by:

Attorney Name
Counsel for Respondent
Firm Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone Number

Accepted by FINRA:

07/16/2015
Date

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

Dale A. Glanzman
Attorney Name Dale A. Glanzman
Title: Senior Regional Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
Address 55 W. Monroe St., Ste 2700
City/State/Zip Chicago, IL 60603
Phone Number; Fax Number
P (312) 899-4312
F (312) 899-4600

Attachment: Election of Payment Form