

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2015044764902**

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

RE: Vincent Bee Payne, Respondent
Registered Representative
CRD No. 5796662

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

Vincent Bee Payne (“Payne” or “Respondent”) entered the securities industry in May 2012 as an Investment Company Products/ Variable Contracts Representative at Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC (“Farmers Financial”), where he remained registered until his termination in March 2015. From January 2011 through March 2015, Payne also was appointed as an insurance agent with Farmers Insurance Group of Companies (“Farmers Insurance”), a Farmers Financial affiliate. Payne obtained his Series 6 (Investment Company and Variable Contracts Products Representative) and Series 63 (Uniform Securities Agent State Law) licenses on June 25, 2012 and July 9, 2012, respectively.

By Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration (“Form U5”) filed on March 12, 2015, Farmers Financial reported that it had terminated Respondent upon learning that Farmers Insurance had “terminated the RR’s appointment” after it determined he had engaged in “forging property & casualty” insurance customers’ signatures. Since his termination, Payne has not been registered with any FINRA member, but he remains subject to FINRA’s jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA’s By-laws.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Payne has no relevant disciplinary history.

OVERVIEW

In July and August 2014, Respondent falsified signatures for at least three customers on at least three Memorandums of Insurance and Subscription Agreements. He did so without the consent or authorization of the customers.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

Between July 6, 2014, and August 23, 2014, Respondent forged insurance customer signatures for at least three customers on at least three Memorandums of Insurance and Subscription Agreements. Doing so enabled him to retain future commissions on the related policies and prevent Farmers Insurance from exercising its right to reassign those policies and commissions to other agents.

FINRA Rule 2010 requires that a member, in the conduct of his business, "shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principles of trade." Signing a customer's name to a document without proper authority constitutes forgery, and forgery is inconsistent with this Rule.

By reason of the foregoing, Respondent violated FINRA Rule 2010.

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

- A six month suspension from association with any FINRA member in any capacity.

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).

Respondent has submitted a sworn financial statement and demonstrated an inability to pay. In light of the financial status of Respondent, no monetary sanctions have been imposed.

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 understand and acknowledge that FINRA does not represent or advise me and I cannot rely on FINRA or FINRA staff members for legal advice; 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.

02-02-2017

Date

Vincent Bee Payne
Vincent Bee Payne

Accepted by FINRA:

7/23/17
Date

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

Susan Light

Susan Light
Sr. Vice President & Chief Counsel
FINRA Department of Enforcement
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