



REPRESENTING
ALEX SINK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE OF FLORIDA

FILED

MAR 29 2010

Docketed by *JS*

IN THE MATTER OF:

CASE NO.: 102956-09-AG

VACATION SUPERSTORE NETWORK,
INC., d/b/a BEST PRICE CRUISES
_____ /

AMENDED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

VACATION SUPERSTORE NETWORK, INC.,
d/b/a BEST PRICE CRUISES
8930 S. US Highway 1
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952

You, VACATION SUPERSTORE NETWORK, INC., d/b/a BEST PRICE CRUISES (“VACATION SUPERSTORE”), are hereby notified that the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida has caused to be made an investigation of your activities in this state, as a result of which it is alleged:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. VACATION SUPERSTORE, does not currently hold a travel insurance license pursuant to Section 626.321(1)(c), Florida Statutes, or the necessary appointments pursuant to Section 626.112(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

2. At all times pertinent to the dates and occurrences referred to herein, you, VACATION SUPERSTORE, did not hold a travel insurance license pursuant to Section 626.321(1)(c), Florida Statutes, or the necessary appointments pursuant to Section 626.112(1)(a), Florida Statutes.

3. At all times pertinent to the dates and occurrences referred to herein, VACATION SUPERSTORE, conducted business under its own name and also the fictitious name of "Best Price Cruises".

4. Section 624.401, Florida Statutes, provides that no person shall act as an insurer, and no insurer or its agents, attorneys, subscribers, or representatives shall directly or indirectly transact insurance in this state except as authorized by a subsisting Certificate of Authority issued to the insurer by the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation.

5. Section 624.04, Florida Statutes, defines "person" and includes "company", "corporation", and "every legal entity" in the definition.

6. Section 624.09, Florida Statutes, provides that an "unauthorized insurer" is an insurer which is not duly authorized by a subsisting certificate of authority issued by OIR to transact insurance in this state.

7. Section 624.10, Florida Statutes, provides that transacting insurance includes any of the following, in addition to other applicable provisions of this code: 1) solicitation or inducement; 2) preliminary negotiations; 3) effectuation of a contract of insurance; and 4) transaction of matters subsequent to effectuation of a contract of insurance and arising out of it.

8. Section 626.901(1), Florida Statutes, provides:

No person shall, from offices or by personnel or facilities located in this state, or in any other state or country, directly or indirectly act as agent for, or otherwise represent or aid on behalf of another, any insurer not then authorized to transact such insurance in this state in:

(a) The solicitation, negotiation, procurement, or effectuation of insurance or annuity contracts, or renewals thereof; (b) The dissemination of information as to coverage or rates; (c) The forwarding of applications; (d) The delivery of policies or contracts; (e) The inspection of risks; (f) The fixing of rates; (g) The investigation or

adjustment of claims or losses; or (h) The collection or forwarding of premiums;

or in any other manner represent or assist such an insurer in the transaction of insurance with respect to subjects of insurance resident, located, or to be performed in this state. If the property or risk is located in any other state, then, subject to the provisions of subsection (4), insurance may only be written with or placed in an insurer authorized to do such business in such state or in an insurer with which a licensed insurance broker of such state may lawfully place such insurance.

9. Section 626.901(2), Florida Statutes provides:

If an unauthorized insurer fails to pay in full or in part any claim or loss within the provisions of any insurance contract which is entered into in violation of this section, any person who knew or reasonably should have known that such contract was entered into in violation of this section and who solicited, negotiated, took application for, or effectuated such insurance contract is liable to the insured for the full amount of the claim or loss not paid.

10. At all times pertinent to the dates and occurrences alleged herein, VACATION SUPERSTORE, allowed its agents or employees, who were not licensed to transact travel insurance pursuant to Section 626.321(1)(c), Florida Statutes, and who did not have the necessary appointments pursuant to Section 626.112(1)(a), Florida Statutes, to transact insurance.

11. Pursuant to Chapter 626, Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Financial Services (“Department”) has jurisdiction over VACATION SUPERSTORE and the business of travel insurance.

COUNT I

12. The above general allegations are hereby realleged and fully incorporated herein by reference.

13. In April 2007, Leslie Sachs of Marblehead, MA, purchased a cruise package from VACATION SUPERSTORE and made a deposit on the cruise.

14. In November 2007, Ms. Sachs paid the remainder of the cruise cost and purchased travel insurance through VACATION SUPERSTORE.

15. Subsequent to the purchase, Ms. Sachs had to cancel her trip for unforeseen medical reasons and filed a claim which was partially denied.

16. The travel insurance which VACATION SUPERSTORE sold to Ms. Sachs was with Prime Travel Protection, Inc., and/or Ciela Capital Insurance Company, Ltd., both unauthorized insurers.

17. The aforementioned transaction of insurance was handled by one or more unlicensed individuals of VACATION SUPERSTORE who also did not have the necessary appointments. These individuals included, but are not limited to, Simona Petrone, Debra Sill, and Donna Linkus.

18. Prime Travel Protection, Inc. and Ciela Capital Insurance Company, Ltd. have never held a license or Certificate of Authority to transact insurance in Florida or Massachusetts.

19. VACATION SUPERSTORE directly or indirectly acted as agent for or otherwise represented or aided one or more unauthorized insurers, including but not limited to Prime Travel Protection and Ciela Capital Insurance Company, Ltd.

20. As a result of the sale of travel insurance to Ms. Sachs, VACATION SUPERSTORE represented or aided and abetted an unauthorized insurer and, as a consequence thereof, Ms. Sachs was financially harmed when her claim was not paid.

IT IS THEREFORE CHARGED that you, VACATION SUPERSTORE, have violated or are accountable under one or more of the following provisions of the Florida Statutes or Florida Administrative Code, which constitutes grounds for the imposition of a cease and desist order and fines:

(a) No person may be, act as, or advertise or hold himself or herself out to be an insurance agent, insurance adjuster, or customer representative unless he or she is currently licensed by the department and appointed by an appropriate appointing entity or person. [Section 626.112(1)(a), Florida Statutes];

(b) No individual or entity shall transact travel insurance without a license. [Section 626.321(1)(c), Florida Statutes];

(c) No person shall directly or indirectly represent or aid any insurer not then authorized to transact such insurance in this state or from this state in the solicitation, negotiation, procurement, or effectuation of insurance or annuity contracts with respect to subjects of insurance resident, located, or to be performed in this state or any other state. [Section 626.901(1), Florida Statutes];

(d) If an unauthorized insurer fails to pay in full or in part any claim or loss within the provisions of any insurance contract which is entered into in violation of this section, any person who knew or reasonably should have known that such contract was entered into in violation of this section and who solicited, negotiated, took application for, or effectuated such insurance contract is liable to the insured for the full amount of the claim or loss not paid. [Section 626.901(2), Florida Statutes];

(e) Engaging in the business of insurance without being properly licensed. [Sections 626.9571(1), Florida Statutes]; and

(f) Engaging in the unlawful transaction of insurance. [Sections 626.9581, Florida Statutes].

COUNT II

21. The above general allegations are hereby realleged and fully incorporated herein by reference.

22. On May 1, 2007, James Canavan of Tavares, Florida booked a cruise for himself and his wife through VACATION SUPERSTORE. The scheduled departure date for the cruise was July 1, 2008.

23. Mr. Canavan paid VACATION SUPERSTORE \$7,599.44, which price included the insurance premium payment of \$396.00 for travel insurance through Prime Travel Protection, Inc., an unauthorized insurer. The travel insurance included trip cancellation coverage and was recommended by VACATION SUPERSTORE.

24. On June 22, 2008, Mr. Canavan experienced a medical emergency and on June 23, 2008, had emergency surgery.

25. On June 23, 2008, the Canavans notified VACATION SUPERSTORE that their cruise had to be cancelled for medical reasons.

26. VACATION SUPERSTORE instructed the Canavans to file their claim with Prime Travel Protection and the Canavans did so.

27. Over the next nine months, the Canavans repeatedly provided documentation to Prime Travel Protection, Inc. as requested, but Prime Travel Protection, Inc. never paid the Canavans' claim.

28. As a result of VACATION SUPERSTORE placing the Canavans' travel insurance with an unauthorized insurer, the Canavans suffered financial loss when their claim was not paid.

IT IS THEREFORE CHARGED that you, VACATION SUPERSTORE, have violated or are accountable under one or more of the following provisions of the Florida Statutes or Florida Administrative Code, which constitutes grounds for the imposition of a cease and desist order and fines:

(a) No person may be, act as, or advertise or hold himself or herself out to be an insurance agent, insurance adjuster, or customer representative unless he or she is currently licensed by the department and appointed by an appropriate appointing entity or person. [Section 626.112(1)(a), Florida Statutes];

(b) No individual or entity shall transact travel insurance without a license. [Section 626.321(1)(c), Florida Statutes];

(c) No person shall directly or indirectly represent or aid any insurer not then authorized to transact such insurance in this state or from this state in the solicitation, negotiation, procurement, or effectuation of insurance or annuity contracts with respect to subjects of insurance resident, located, or to be performed in this state or any other state. [Section 626.901(1), Florida Statutes];

(d) If an unauthorized insurer fails to pay in full or in part any claim or loss within the provisions of any insurance contract which is entered into in violation of this section, any person who knew or reasonably should have known that such contract was entered into in violation of this section and who solicited, negotiated, took application for, or effectuated such insurance contract is liable to the insured for the full amount of the claim or loss not paid. [Section 626.901(2), Florida Statutes];

(e) Engaging in the business of insurance without being properly licensed. [Sections 626.9571(1), Florida Statutes]; and

(f) Engaging in the unlawful transaction of insurance. [Sections 626.9581, Florida Statutes].

WHEREFORE, you, VACATION SUPERSTORE, are hereby notified that the Chief Financial Officer intends to enter an Order requiring you to cease and desist, fining you and imposing other such penalties as may be provided under the provisions of Sections 626.9521, 626.9571, 626.9581, 626.901, Florida Statutes, including any referenced sections of the Florida Statutes as set out in this Notice, and under any other applicable section of the Florida Insurance Code.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

You have the right to request a proceeding to contest this action by the Department pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, and Rule 28-106, Florida Administrative Code. The proceeding request must be in writing, signed by you, and must be filed with the Department within twenty-one (21) days of your receipt of this notice. Completion of the attached Election of Proceeding form and/or a petition for administrative hearing will suffice as a written request. The request must be filed with Julie Jones, Agency Clerk, at the Florida Department of Financial Services, 612 Larson Building, 200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0390. Your written response must be received by the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the twenty-first day after your receipt of this notice. Mailing the response on the twenty-first day will not preserve your right to a hearing.

YOUR FAILURE TO RESPOND IN WRITING WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE WILL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A PROCEEDING ON THE MATTERS ALLEGED HEREIN AND A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER WILL BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU. VIOLATION OF THE ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST WILL SUBJECT YOU TO

FINE UP TO \$50,000, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 626.9581
AND 626.9601, FLORIDA STATUTES.

If you request a proceeding, you must provide information that complies with the requirements of Rule 28-106.201(2), Florida Administrative Code. As noted above, completion of the attached Election of Proceeding form conforms to these requirements. Specifically, your response must contain:

(a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;

(b) The name, address, and telephone number of the Petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the Petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the Petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the Department's determination;

(c) A statement of when and how the Petitioner received notice of the Department's decision;

(d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the Petition must so indicate;

(e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the Petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Department's proposed action;

(f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the Petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Department's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the Petitioner, stating precisely the action Petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Department's proposed

action.

If a hearing of any type is requested, you have the right to be represented by counsel or other qualified representative at your expense, to present evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses, and to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents by subpoena.

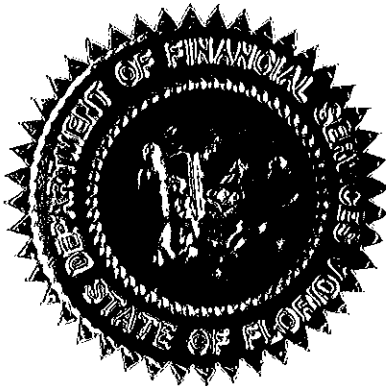
If a proceeding is requested and there is no dispute of material fact, the provisions of section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes, apply. In this regard, you may submit oral or written evidence in opposition to the action taken by the Department or a written statement challenging the grounds upon which the Department has relied. While a hearing is normally not required in the absence of a dispute of fact, if you feel that a hearing is necessary, one will be conducted in Tallahassee, Florida, or by telephonic conference call upon your request.

However, if you dispute material facts that are the basis for the Department's action, you must request an adversarial proceeding pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57(1), Florida Statutes. These proceedings are held before a State administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings. Unless the majority of witnesses are located elsewhere, the Department will request that the hearing be conducted in Tallahassee, Florida.

Failure to follow the procedure outlined with regard to your response to this notice may result in the request being denied. All prior oral communication or correspondence in this matter shall be considered freeform agency action, and no such oral communication or correspondence shall operate as a valid request for an administrative proceeding. Any request for an administrative proceeding received prior to the date of this notice shall be deemed abandoned unless timely renewed in compliance with the guidelines as set out above.

Mediation of this matter pursuant to Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available. No Department attorney will discuss this matter with you until the response has been received by the Department.

DATED and SIGNED this 29th day of March, 2010.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Rowell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

NANCY ROWELL
Division Director, Agent & Agency Services

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing AMENDED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER has been furnished to VACATION SUPERSTORE NETWORK, INC., d/b/a BEST PRICE CRUISES, 8930 S. US Highway 1, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952, via U.S. Certified Mail, restricted delivery, this 29th day of March, 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Tharpe". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William W. Tharpe
Division of Legal Services
200 East Gaines St.
612 Larson Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0333
(850) 413-4110

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

VACATION SUPERSTORE NETWORK,
INC., d/b/a BEST PRICE CRUISES

CASE NO.: 102956-09-AG

ELECTION OF PROCEEDING

I have received and have read the NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER filed by the Florida Department of Financial Services ("Department") against me, including the Notice of Rights contained therein, and I understand my options. I am requesting disposition of this matter as indicated below. **(CHOOSE ONE)**

1. I do not dispute any of the Department's factual allegations and I do not desire a hearing. I understand that by waiving my right to a hearing, the Department may enter a final order that adopts the Notice of Intent to Issue Cease and Desist Order and imposes the sanctions sought, including suspending or revoking my licenses and appointments as may be appropriate.

2. I do not dispute any of the Department's factual allegations and I hereby elect a proceeding to be conducted in accordance with Section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. In this regard, I desire to **(CHOOSE ONE)**:
 - Submit a written statement and documentary evidence in lieu of a hearing; or
 - Personally attend a hearing conducted by a department hearing officer in Tallahassee; or
 - Attend that same hearing by way of a telephone conference call.

3. I do dispute one or more of the Department's factual allegations. I hereby request a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, to be held before the Division of Administrative Hearings. I have attached to this election form the information required by Rule 28-106.201(2), Florida Administrative Code, as specified in the Notice of Rights. Specifically, I have identified the disputed issues of material fact.

TO PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING, YOU MUST FILE YOUR RESPONSE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES WITHIN TWENTY-ONE (21) DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER. THE RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY AFTER YOUR RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER.

The address for filing is: Julie Jones, Agency Clerk, Florida Department of Financial Services, 612 Larson Building, 200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0390.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Date _____

Received: _____

Phone No.: _____

If you are represented by an attorney or qualified representative, please attach to this election form his or her name, address, telephone and fax numbers

Fax No.: _____