

The following has special meaning:
green underline denotes added text
~~red struck-out text denotes deleted text~~

2023 KY H 232

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KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE

HB 232

2023 Regular Session

AN ACT relating to insurance adjusters.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 304.9-430 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in this section and KRS 304.52-060, no person shall in this state act as or hold himself, herself, or itself out to be an independent, staff, or public adjuster unless then licensed by the department as an independent, staff, or public adjuster.

(2) (a) An individual applying for a resident independent, staff, or public adjuster license shall make an application to the commissioner on the appropriate uniform individual application and in a format prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) ~~An~~ ~~The~~ applicant under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall declare under penalty of suspension, revocation, or refusal of the license that the statements made in the application are true, correct, and complete to the best of the individual's knowledge and belief.

(c) Before approving an ~~the~~ application submitted under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the commissioner shall find that the individual to be licensed:

1. ~~(a)~~ Is at least eighteen (18) years of age;

2. ~~(b)~~ Is eligible to designate Kentucky as the individual's ~~his or her~~ home state;

3. ~~(c)~~ Is trustworthy, reliable, and of good reputation, evidence of which shall be determined through an investigation by the commissioner;

4. ~~(d)~~ Has not committed any act that is a ground for probation, ~~or~~ suspension, revocation, or refusal of a license as set forth in KRS 304.9-440;

5. ~~(e)~~ Has successfully passed the examination for the adjuster license and the applicable line of authority for which the individual has applied;

6. ~~(f)~~ Has paid the fees established by the commissioner pursuant to KRS 304.4-010; and

7. ~~(g)~~ Is financially responsible to exercise the license.

(3) (a) To demonstrate financial responsibility, a person applying for a public adjuster license shall obtain a bond or irrevocable letter of credit prior to issuance of a license and shall maintain the bond or letter of credit for the duration of the license with the following limits:

1. A surety bond executed and issued by an insurer authorized to issue surety bonds in Kentucky, which bond shall:

a. Be in the minimum amount of fifty ~~twenty~~ thousand dollars (\$50,000) ~~(\$20,000)~~;

b. Be in favor of the state of Kentucky; ~~and shall~~

c. Specifically authorize recovery of any person in Kentucky who sustained damages as the result of the public adjuster's erroneous acts, failure to act, conviction of fraud, or conviction for unfair trade practices in his or her capacity as a public adjuster; and

d. ~~e.~~ Not be terminated unless written notice is given to the licensee at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination; or

2. An irrevocable letter of credit issued by a qualified financial institution, which letter of credit shall:

- a. Be in the minimum amount of ~~fifty, twenty~~ thousand dollars (~~\$50,000~~) (~~\$20,000~~);
 - b. Be subject to lawful levy of execution on behalf of any person to whom the public adjuster has been found to be legally liable as the result of erroneous acts, failure to act, conviction of fraud, or conviction for unfair practices in his or her capacity as a public adjuster; and
 - c. Not be terminated unless written notice is given to the licensee at least thirty (30) days prior to the termination.
- (b) The commissioner may ask for evidence of financial responsibility at any time the commissioner ~~he or she~~ deems relevant.
- (c) ~~The public adjuster license shall automatically terminate~~ If the evidence of financial responsibility terminates or becomes impaired, the public adjuster license shall:
1. Automatically terminate; and ~~shall~~
 2. Be promptly surrendered to the commissioner without demand.
- (4) (a) A business entity applying for a resident independent or public adjuster license shall make an application to the commissioner on the appropriate uniform business entity application and in a format prescribed by the commissioner.
- (b) ~~An~~ The applicant under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall declare under penalty of suspension, revocation, or refusal of the license that the statements made in the application are true, correct, and complete to the best of the business entity's knowledge and belief.
- (c) Before approving an ~~the~~ application submitted under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the commissioner shall find that the business entity:
1. ~~(a)~~ Is eligible to designate Kentucky as its home state;
 2. ~~(b)~~ Has designated a licensed independent or public adjuster responsible for the business entity's compliance with the insurance laws and regulations of Kentucky;
 3. ~~(c)~~ Has not committed an act that is a ground for probation, ~~or~~ suspension, revocation, or refusal of an independent or public adjuster's license as set forth in KRS 304.9-440; and
 4. ~~(d)~~ Has paid the fees established by the commissioner pursuant to KRS 304.4-010.
- (5) For applications made under this section, the commissioner may:
- (a) Require additional information or submissions from applicants; and ~~may~~
 - (b) Obtain any documents or information reasonably necessary to verify the information contained in an application.
- (6) Unless denied licensure pursuant to KRS 304.9-440, a person or business entity who has met the requirements of subsections (2) to (5) of this section shall be issued an independent, staff, or public adjuster license.
- (7) An independent or staff adjuster may qualify for a license in one (1) or more of the following lines of authority:
- (a) Property and casualty;
 - (b) Workers' compensation; or
 - (c) Crop.
- (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, an individual who is employed by an insurer to investigate suspected fraudulent insurance claims, but who does not adjust losses or determine claims payments, shall not be required to be licensed as a staff adjuster.
- (9) A public adjuster may qualify for a license in one (1) or more of the following lines of authority:
- (a) Property and casualty; or
 - (b) Crop.
- (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, a license as an independent adjuster shall not be required of the following:
- (a) An individual who is sent into Kentucky on behalf of an insurer for the sole purpose of investigating or making adjustment of a particular loss resulting from a catastrophe, or for the adjustment of a series of losses resulting from a catastrophe common to all losses;
 - (b) An attorney licensed to practice law in Kentucky, when acting in his or her professional capacity as an attorney;
 - (c) A person employed solely to obtain facts surrounding a claim or to furnish technical assistance to a licensed independent adjuster;
 - (d) An individual who is employed to investigate suspected fraudulent insurance claims, but who does not adjust losses or determine claims payments;
 - (e) A person who:
1. Solely performs executive, administrative, managerial, or clerical duties, or any combination thereof; ~~;~~ and ~~who~~

2. Does not investigate, negotiate, or settle claims with policyholders, claimants, or their legal representatives;

(f) A licensed health care provider or its employee who provides managed care services ~~if as long as~~ the services do not include the determination of compensability;

(g) A health maintenance organization or any of its employees or an employee of any organization providing managed care services ~~if as long as~~ the services do not include the determination of compensability;

(h) A person who settles only reinsurance or subrogation claims;

(i) An officer, director, manager, or employee of an authorized insurer, surplus lines insurer, or risk retention group, or an attorney-in-fact of a reciprocal insurer;

(j) A United States manager of the United States branch of an alien insurer;

(k) A person who investigates, negotiates, or settles claims arising under a life, accident and health, or disability insurance policy or annuity contract;

(l) An individual employee, under a self-insured arrangement, who adjusts claims on behalf of ~~the individual's~~ ~~his or her~~ employer;

(m) A licensed agent, attorney-in-fact of a reciprocal insurer, or managing general agent of the insurer, to whom claim authority has been granted by ~~an~~ ~~the~~ insurer; or

(n) 1. A person who:

~~a. 1.~~ Is an employee of a licensed independent adjuster, ~~is~~ ~~of~~ an employee of an affiliate that is a licensed independent adjuster, or is supervised by a licensed independent adjuster, if there are no more than twenty-five (25) persons under the supervision of one (1) licensed individual independent adjuster or licensed agent who is exempt from licensure pursuant to paragraph (m) of this subsection;

~~b. 2.~~ Collects claim information from insureds or claimants;

~~c. 3.~~ Enters data into an automated claims adjudication system; and

~~d. 4.~~ Furnishes claim information to insureds or claimants from the results of the automated claims adjudication system.

2. For purposes of this paragraph, "automated claims adjudication system" means a preprogrammed computer system designed for the collection, data entry, calculation, and system-generated final resolution of consumer electronic products insurance claims that complies with claim settlement practices pursuant to Subtitle 12 of KRS Chapter 304.

(11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, a license as a public adjuster shall not be required of the following:

(a) An attorney licensed to practice law in Kentucky, when acting in his or her professional capacity as an attorney;

(b) A person who negotiates or settles claims arising under a life or health insurance policy or an annuity contract;

(c) A person employed only for the purpose of obtaining facts surrounding a loss or furnishing technical assistance to a licensed public adjuster, including photographers, estimators, private investigators, engineers, and handwriting experts;

(d) A licensed health care provider or its employee who prepares or files a health claim form on behalf of a patient; or

(e) An employee or agent of an insurer adjusting claims relating to food spoilage with respect to residential property insurance in which the amount of coverage for the applicable type of loss is contractually limited to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less.

(12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, a license as a staff adjuster shall not be required of an employee or agent of an insurer adjusting claims relating to food spoilage with respect to residential property insurance in which the amount of coverage for the applicable type of loss is contractually limited to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less.

(13) For purposes of this section, ~~except as otherwise provided in subsection (15) of this section,~~ "home state" means any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia in which an independent, staff, or public adjuster:

~~(a)~~ Maintains his, her, or its principal place of residence or business; and

~~(b)~~ Is licensed to act as a resident independent, staff, or public adjuster. ~~If the state of the principal place of residence does not license an independent, staff, or public adjuster for the line of authority sought, the independent, staff, or public adjuster shall designate as his, her, or its home state, any state in which the independent or public adjuster is licensed and in good standing.~~

(14) Temporary registration for emergency independent or staff adjusters shall be issued by the commissioner in the event of a catastrophe declared in Kentucky in the following manner:

(a) An insurer shall notify the commissioner by submitting an application for temporary emergency registration of each individual not already licensed in the state where the catastrophe has been declared, who will act as an emergency independent adjuster on behalf of the insurer;

(b) A person who is otherwise qualified to adjust claims, but who is not already licensed in the state, may act as an emergency independent or staff adjuster and adjust claims if, within five (5) days of deployment to adjust claims arising from the catastrophe, the insurer

notifies the commissioner by providing the following information, in a format prescribed by the commissioner:

1. The name of the individual;
2. The Social Security number of the individual;
3. The name of the insurer that the independent or staff adjuster will represent;
4. The catastrophe or loss control number;
5. The catastrophe event name and date; and
6. Any other information the commissioner deems necessary; and

(c) An emergency independent or staff adjuster's registration shall remain in force for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days, unless extended by the commissioner.

(15) (a) As used in this subsection, "home state" has the same meaning as in subsection (13) of this section, except that for purposes of this subsection the term includes any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia in which an applicant under this subsection is licensed to act as a resident independent, staff, or public adjuster if the state or territory of the applicant's principal place of residence does not issue an independent, staff, or public adjuster license.

(b) Unless refused licensure in accordance with KRS 304.9-440, a nonresident person shall receive a nonresident independent, staff, or public adjuster license if:

1. The person is currently licensed in good standing as an independent, staff, or public adjuster in his, her, or its home state;
2. The person has submitted the proper request for licensure; and has paid the fees required by KRS 304.4-010;
3. The person has submitted, in a form or format prescribed by the commissioner, the uniform individual application; and
4. The person's designated home state issues nonresident independent, staff, or public adjuster licenses to persons of Kentucky on the same basis.

(c) ~~(b)~~ The commissioner may:

1. Verify an applicant's ~~the independent, staff, or public adjuster's~~ licensing status through any appropriate database, including the database maintained by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates, or subsidiaries; ~~or may~~

2. Request certification of an applicant's good standing.

(d) ~~(e)~~ As a condition to the continuation of a nonresident adjuster license, the licensee shall maintain a resident adjuster license in his, her, or its home state.

(e) ~~(d)~~ ~~A The~~ nonresident adjuster license issued under this subsection ~~section~~ shall terminate and be surrendered immediately to the commissioner if the licensee's resident adjuster license terminates for any reason, unless:

1. The termination is due to the licensee adjuster being issued a new resident independent, staff, or public adjuster license in his, her, or its new home state; and ~~if~~

2. The new resident state or territory has ~~does not have~~ reciprocity with Kentucky, ~~the nonresident adjuster license shall terminate.~~

Section 2. KRS 304.9-433 is amended to read as follows:

(1) (a) A public adjuster shall not provide services to an insured until a written contract with the insured has been executed on a form that has been prefiled with and approved by the commissioner.

(b) A contract between a public adjuster and an insured in violation of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not be enforceable in this state.

(c) A form prefiled with the commissioner by a public adjuster for approval under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be subject to disapproval by the commissioner at any time if the form is found to:

1. Violate any provision of this chapter;

2. Contain or incorporate by reference any inconsistent, ambiguous, or misleading clauses; or

3. Contain any title, heading, or other indication of its provisions which is:

a. Misleading; or

b. Printed in a size of typeface or manner of reproduction so as to be substantially illegible.

(d) A contract between a public adjuster and an insured that was executed on a form that was prefiled with and approved by the commissioner under paragraph (a) of this subsection prior to a disapproval of the form under paragraph (c) of this subsection shall be

enforceable to the extent allowed by:

1. Ordinary principles of contract; and

2. Any applicable state or federal laws implicated by the contract.

(2) A public adjuster shall ensure that all contracts between the public adjuster and the insured for services are in writing and contain the following terms:

(a) The legible full name of the adjuster signing the contract, as specified in the department's Department of Insurance licensing records;

(b) The permanent home state business address and phone number;

(c) The Department of Insurance license number issued to the adjuster by the department;

(d) A title of "Public Adjuster Contract";

(e) The insured's full name, street address, insurer name, and policy number, if known or upon notification;

(f) A description of the loss or damage and its location, if applicable;

(g) A description of services to be provided to the insured;

(h) The signatures of the public adjuster and the insured;

(i) The date the contract was signed by:

1. The public adjuster; and the date the contract was signed by

2. The insured;

(j) Attestation language stating that the public adjuster has a letter of credit or a surety bond as required by KRS 304.9-430(3); and

(k) The full salary, fee, commission, compensation, or other consideration considerations the public adjuster is to receive for services, including but not limited to: -

~~(2) Any contract that specifies that the public adjuster shall be named as a co-payee on an insurer's payment of a claim is permitted provided that:~~

1. (a) If the compensation is based on a percentage share of the insurance settlement, the exact percentage, which shall be in accordance with Section 5 of this Act shall be specified;

2. (b) The initial expenses to be reimbursed to the public adjuster from the proceeds of the claim payment, shall be specified by type, with dollar estimates; set forth in the contract and with

3. Any additional expenses, if first approved by the insured; and

(l) A statement that the adjuster shall not give legal advice or act on behalf of or aid any person in negotiating or settling a claim relating to bodily injury, death, or noneconomic damages;

(m) The process for rescinding the contract, including the date by which rescission of the contract by the adjuster or the insured may occur; and

(n) A statement that clearly states in substance the following: "Complaints regarding this contract or regarding the public adjuster may be filed with the consumer protection division of the Kentucky Department of Insurance."

(3) (e) (a). Compensation provisions in a public adjuster contract between a public adjuster and an insured shall not be redacted in any copy of the contract provided to the commissioner.

(b) Such A redaction prohibited under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall constitute an omission of material fact in violation of KRS 304.9-440 and 304.12-230.

~~(3) If the insurer, not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the date on which the loss is reported to the insurer, either pays or commits in writing to pay to the insured the policy limit of the insurance policy, the public adjuster shall:~~

~~(a) Not receive a commission consisting of a percentage of the total amount paid by an insurer to resolve a claim;~~

~~(b) Inform the insured that the claim settlement amount may not be increased by the insurer; and~~

~~(c) Be entitled only to reasonable compensation from the insured for services provided by the public adjuster on behalf of the insured, based on the time spent on a claim and expenses incurred by the public adjuster, until the claim is paid or the insured receives a written commitment to pay from the insurer.~~

~~(4) A public adjuster shall provide the insured with a written disclosure concerning any direct or indirect financial interest that the public adjuster has with any other party who is involved in any aspect of the claim, other than the salary, fee, commission, or other consideration~~

established in the written contract with the insured, including but not limited to any ownership of, other than as a minority stockholder, or any compensation expected to be received from, any construction firm, salvage firm, building appraisal firm, motor vehicle repair shop, or any other firm that provides estimates for work, or that performs any work, in conjunction with damages caused by the insured loss on which the public adjuster is engaged. For purposes of this subsection, "firm" includes any corporation, partnership, association, joint-stock company, or person.

(4) (5) A ~~public adjuster~~ contract between a public adjuster and an insured shall ~~may~~ not contain any contract term that:

(a) Allows the ~~public~~ adjuster's percentage fee to be collected when money is due from an insurer, but not paid; ~~or~~

(b) Allows the a public adjuster to collect the entire fee from the first check issued by an insurer, rather than as a percentage of each check issued by an insurer;

(c) ~~(b)~~ Requires an the insured to authorize an insurer to issue a check only in the name of the ~~public~~ adjuster;

(d) ~~(e)~~ Imposes collection costs or late fees; ~~or~~

(e) ~~(f)~~ Allows the adjuster's rate of compensation to be increased based on the fact that a claim is litigated; or

(f) Precludes the a public adjuster from pursuing civil remedies.

(5) (6) Prior to the signing of a the contract with an insured, a public adjuster shall provide the insured with a separate disclosure document regarding the claim process that states shall state the following: "Property insurance policies obligate the insured to present a claim to his or her insurance company for consideration. Three (3) types of adjusters may be involved in the claim process as follows:

1. "Staff adjuster" means an insurance adjuster who is an employee of an insurance company, who represents the interest of the insurance company, and who is paid by the insurance company. A staff adjuster shall not charge a fee to the insured;

2. "Independent adjuster" means an insurance adjuster who is hired on a contract basis by an insurance company to represent the insurance company's interest in the settlement of the claims and who is paid by the insurance company. An independent adjuster shall not charge a fee to the insured; and

3. "Public adjuster" means an insurance adjuster who does not work for any insurance company. A public adjuster works for the insured to assist in the preparation, presentation, and settlement of the claim, and the insured hires a public adjuster by signing a contract agreeing to pay him or her a fee or commission based on a percentage of the settlement or another other method of payment. The insured is not required to hire a public adjuster to help the insured meet his or her obligations under the policy, but has the right to hire a public adjuster. The insured has the right to initiate direct communications with the insured's attorney, the insurer, the insurer's adjuster, the insurer's attorney, and any other person regarding the settlement of the insured's claim. The public adjuster shall not be a representative or employee of the insurer. The salary, fee, commission, or other consideration paid to the public adjuster is the obligation of the insured, not the insurer."

(6) (7) (a) A The contract between a the public adjuster and an the insured shall be executed in duplicate to provide an original contract to:

1. The public adjuster; ~~and an original contract to~~

2. The insured.

(b) A The public adjuster's original contract shall be available at all times for inspection by the commissioner without notice.

(7) (8) Within seventy-two (72) hours of entering into a contract with an insured, a the public adjuster shall provide the insurer:

(a) A notification letter that: ,which

1. Has been signed by the insured; and ,authorizing

2. Authorizes the public adjuster to represent the insured's interest; and

(b) A copy of the contract.

~~(9) The public adjuster shall give the insured written notice of the insured's rights as provided in this section.~~

(8) (10) (a) The insured shall have has the right to rescind a the contract with a public adjuster within three (3) business days after the date the contract was signed.

(b) A The rescission of a public adjuster contract shall be:

1. In writing; and

2. Mailed or delivered to the public adjuster at the address in the contract; and

3. Postmarked or received within the three (3) business day period.

(9) (11) If an the insured exercises the right to rescind a the contract under subsection (8) of this section, anything of value given by the insured under the contract to the public adjuster shall be returned to the insured within fifteen (15) business days following receipt by the public adjuster of the rescission notice.

~~(12) A public adjuster who receives, accepts, or holds any funds on behalf of an insured toward the settlement of a claim for loss or damage shall deposit the funds in a noninterest-bearing escrow or trust account in a financial institution that is insured by an agency of the federal government in the public adjuster's home state or where the loss occurred.~~

SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 9 OF KRS CHAPTER 304 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A public adjuster shall give an insured written notice of the insured's rights under this section and Sections 2 and 4 of this Act.

(2) A public adjuster shall ensure that:

(a) Prompt notice of a claim is provided to the insurer;

(b) The property that is subject to a claim is available for inspection of the loss or damage by the insurer; and

(c) The insurer is given the opportunity to interview the insured directly about the loss or damage and claim.

(3) A public adjuster shall not restrict or prevent an insurer or its adjuster, or an attorney, investigator, or other person acting on behalf of the insurer, from:

(a) Having reasonable access, at reasonable times, to:

1. The insured or claimant; or

2. The insured property that is the subject of a claim;

(b) Obtaining necessary information to investigate and respond to a claim; or

(c) Corresponding directly with the insured regarding the claim.

(4) (a) A public adjuster shall not act or fail to reasonably act in any manner that obstructs or prevents the insurer or its adjuster from timely conducting an inspection of any part of the insured property for which there is a claim for loss or damage.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, a public adjuster representing an insured may be present for the insurer's inspection.

(c) If the unavailability of a public adjuster otherwise delays the insurer's timely inspection of the property, the public adjuster or the insured shall allow the insurer to have access to the property without the participation or presence of the public adjuster or insured in order to facilitate the insurer's prompt inspection of the loss or damage.

(5) A public adjuster shall provide the insured, the insurer, and the commissioner with a written disclosure concerning any direct or indirect financial interest that the adjuster has with any other party who is involved in any aspect of the claim.

(6) A public adjuster shall not:

(a) Participate, directly or indirectly, in the reconstruction, repair, or restoration of damaged property that is the subject of a claim adjusted by the adjuster;

(b) Engage in any activities that may be reasonably construed as a conflict of interest, including, directly or indirectly, soliciting or accepting any remuneration of any kind or nature;

(c) Have a financial interest in any salvage, repair, or any other business entity that obtains business in connection with any claim that the public adjuster has a contract to adjust; or

(d) 1. Use claim information obtained in the course of any claim investigation for commercial purposes.

2. As used in subparagraph 1. of this paragraph, "commercial purposes" includes marketing or advertising used for the benefit of the public adjuster.

SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 9 OF KRS CHAPTER 304 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) All funds received, accepted, or held by a public adjuster on behalf of an insured toward the settlement of a claim shall be:

(a) Handled in a fiduciary capacity; and

(b) Submitted for collection to or deposited into one (1) or more separate noninterest-bearing fiduciary trust accounts in a financial institution licensed to do business in this state no later than the close of the second business day from the receipt or acceptance of the funds.

(2) The funds referenced under subsection (1) of this section shall:

(a) Be held separately from any personal or nonbusiness funds;

(b) Not be commingled or combined with other funds;

(c) Be reasonably ascertainable from the books of accounts and records of the public adjuster; and

(d) Be disbursed within thirty (30) calendar days of any invoice received by the public adjuster upon approval of the insured or the claimant that the work has been satisfactorily completed.

(3) A public adjuster shall maintain an accurate record and itemization of any funds submitted for collection to or deposited into an account under subsection (1) of this section in accordance with KRS 304.9-435.

SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF SUBTITLE 9 OF KRS CHAPTER 304 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section:

(a) Any fee charged to an insured by a public adjuster shall be:

1. Based only on the amount of the insurance settlement proceeds actually received by the insured; and
2. Collected by the public adjuster after the insured has received the insurance settlement proceeds from the insurer;

(b) A public adjuster may receive a commission for services provided under this subtitle consisting of:

1. An hourly fee;
2. A flat rate;
3. A percentage of the total amount paid by the insurer to resolve a claim; or
4. Another method of compensation; and

(c) 1. A public adjuster shall not charge an unreasonable fee.

2. A public adjuster may charge a reasonable fee that does not exceed:

a. For noncatastrophic claims:

- i. Two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the first twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) of the total insurance recovery of the insured; and
- ii. Ten percent (10%) of the total insurance recovery of the insured that exceeds twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000); or

b. For catastrophic claims, ten percent (10%) of the total insurance recovery of the insured.

3. As used in subparagraph 2.b. of this paragraph, "catastrophic claims" means claims resulting from a catastrophe, as defined in KRS 304.9-

020.

(2) If an insurer, not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the date on which a loss or damage is reported to the insurer, either pays or commits in writing to pay the policy limit of the insurance policy to the insured, a public adjuster shall:

(a) Not receive a commission consisting of a percentage of the total amount paid by the insurer to resolve a claim;

(b) Inform the insured that the claim settlement amount may not be increased by the insurer; and

(c) Be entitled only to reasonable compensation from the insured for services provided by the adjuster on behalf of the insured, based on the time spent on the claim and expenses incurred by the adjuster prior to when the claim was paid or the insured received a written commitment to pay from the insurer.

Section 6. KRS 304.9-440 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The commissioner may place on probation, suspend, or may impose conditions upon the continuance of a license for not more than twenty-four (24) months, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license issued under this subtitle or any surplus lines broker, life settlement broker, or life settlement provider license, or may levy a civil penalty in accordance with KRS 304.99-020, or any combination of actions for any one (1) or more of the following causes:

(a) Providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in ~~a~~ the license application;

(b) Violating any insurance laws, or violating any administrative regulations, subpoena, or order of the commissioner or of another state's insurance commissioner;

(c) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license through misrepresentation or fraud;

(d) Improperly withholding, misappropriating, or converting any moneys or properties received in the course of doing insurance or the business of life settlements;

(e) Intentionally misrepresenting the terms of an actual or proposed insurance contract, life settlement contract, or application for insurance;

(f) Having been convicted of or having pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felony;

(g) Having admitted or been found to have committed any unfair insurance trade practice, insurance fraud, or fraudulent life settlement act;

(h) Using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices; or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility; or being a source of injury or loss to the public in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere;

(i) Having an insurance license, life settlement license, or its equivalent, denied, suspended, or revoked in any other state, province, district, or territory;

(j) Surrendering or otherwise terminating any license issued by this state or by any other jurisdiction, under threat of disciplinary action, denial, or refusal of the issuance of or renewal of any other license issued by this state or by any other jurisdiction; or revocation or suspension of any other license held by the licensee issued by this state or by any other jurisdiction;

(k) Forging another's name to an application for insurance, to any other document related to an insurance transaction, or to any document related to the business of life settlements;

(l) Cheating, including improperly using notes or any other reference material to complete an examination for license;

(m) Knowingly accepting insurance or life settlement business from an individual or business entity who is not licensed, but who is required to be licensed under this subtitle;

(n) Failing to comply with an administrative or court order imposing a child support obligation;

(o) Failing to pay state income tax or to comply with any administrative or court order directing payment of state income tax;

(p) Having been convicted of a misdemeanor for which restitution is ordered in excess of three hundred dollars (\$300), or of any misdemeanor involving dishonesty, breach of trust, or moral turpitude;

(q) Failing to no longer meet the requirements for initial licensure;

(r) If a life settlement provider, demonstrating a pattern of unreasonable payments to owners or failing to honor contractual obligations set out in a life settlement contract;

(s) Entering into any life settlement contract or using any form that has not been approved pursuant to Subtitle 15 of this chapter;

(t) If a licensee, having assigned, transferred, or pledged a policy subject to a life settlement contract to a person other than a life settlement provider licensed in this state, an accredited investor or qualified institutional buyer as defined, respectively, in Regulation D, Rule 501 or Rule 144a of the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as amended, a financing entity, a special purpose entity, or a related provider trust; or

(u) Any other cause for which issuance of the license could have been refused, had it then existed and been known to the commissioner.

(2) (a) For any public adjuster or apprentice adjuster supervised by a public adjuster under KRS 304.9-432, the commissioner may deny, suspend, or revoke the adjuster's license or impose a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per act against the adjuster, or both, for any of the following causes:

1. Violating any provision of this chapter;

2. Violating any administrative regulation or order of the commissioner;

3. Receiving payment or anything of value as a result of an unfair or deceptive practice;

4. Receiving or accepting any fee, kickback, or other thing of value pursuant to any agreement or understanding, oral or otherwise, from anyone other than an insured;

5. Entering into a split-fee arrangement with another person who is not a public adjuster; or

6. Being otherwise paid or accepting payment for public adjuster services that have not been performed.

(b) The sanctions and penalties under this subsection shall be in addition to any other remedies, penalties, or sanctions available to the commissioner against a public adjuster or an apprentice adjuster supervised by a public adjuster under KRS 304.9-432 under this section or any other law.

(3) The license of a business entity may be suspended, revoked, or refused for any cause relating to an individual designated in or registered under the license if the commissioner finds that:

(a) An individual licensee's violation was known or should have been known by one (1) or more of the partners, officers, or managers acting on behalf of the business entity; and

(b) The violation was not reported to the department of Insurance nor corrective action taken.

(4) ~~(a)~~ (a) The license of a pharmacy benefit manager may, in the discretion of the commissioner, be suspended, revoked, or refused for any cause enumerated in subsection (1) of this section, and for violations of KRS 205.647, 304.9-053, 304.9-054, 304.9-055, and 304.17A-162.

(b) The pharmacy benefit manager shall also be subject to the same civil penalties under KRS 304.99-020 as an insurer.

~~(5)~~ ~~(4)~~ The applicant or licensee may make written request for a hearing in accordance with KRS 304.2-310.

~~(6)~~ ~~(5)~~ The commissioner shall retain the authority to enforce the provisions and penalties of this chapter against any individual or business entity who is under investigation for or charged with a violation of this chapter, even if the individual's or business entity's license has been surrendered or has lapsed by operation of law.

~~(7)~~ ~~(6)~~ The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of a licensed insurance agent operating as a life settlement broker, pursuant to KRS 304.15-700, if the commissioner finds that such insurance agent has violated the provisions of KRS 304.15-700 to 304.15-725.

~~(8)~~ ~~(7)~~ If the commissioner denies a license application or suspends, revokes, or refuses to renew the license of a life settlement provider or life settlement broker, or suspends, revokes, or refuses to renew the license of a licensed life insurance agent operating as a life settlement broker pursuant to KRS 304.15-700, the commissioner shall comply with the provisions of this section and KRS Chapter 13B.

~~(9)~~ ~~(8)~~ The sanctions and penalties applicable to licenses and licensees under subsection (1) of this section shall also be applicable to registrations and registrants under KRS 304.52-030(3).

Section 7. Pursuant to KRS 304.2-110, the commissioner may promulgate administrative regulations necessary for or as an aid to the effectuation of any provision of this Act.