

THE INSURANCE CODE OF 1956 (EXCERPT)
Act 218 of 1956

500.251 Cease and desist order.

Sec. 251. (1) In the reasonable exercise of discretion, the commissioner may issue a cease and desist order if the commissioner finds any of the following:

(a) A person is conducting transactions of insurance for which a certificate of authority is required by this act without having obtained a certificate of authority.

(b) A person is acting as an insurance agent, solicitor, adjuster, or counselor without a license as required by this act.

(c) A person is engaged in an act or practice in the business of insurance for which authority from or notification to the commissioner is required by this act and the person has not received authority or given notification.

(d) A person authorized to engage in the business of insurance under this act is engaged in conduct that presents an immediate danger to public health, safety, or welfare.

(2) A cease and desist order under this section shall contain a description of the conduct to which the order applies and shall require the person to immediately cease and desist from that conduct.

(3) The commissioner shall serve the cease and desist order directly on the person affected by the order or shall serve the person by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address last known to the commissioner.

(4) A person who is the subject of a cease and desist order under this section may contest the order by requesting a hearing before the commissioner not later than 30 days after the order is delivered or mailed to the person. Within 10 days after receiving the request, the commissioner shall commence a hearing in accordance with the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Pending the hearing, the cease and desist order continues in full force and effect unless the order is stayed by the commissioner.

(5) Within 5 business days after the hearing, the commissioner shall affirm, modify, or set aside in whole or in part the cease and desist order.

(6) A person who violates or otherwise fails to comply with a cease and desist order under this section is subject to 1 or more of the following:

(a) Payment of a civil fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation not to exceed an aggregate civil fine of \$30,000.00. However, if the person knew or reasonably should have known the person was in violation of the order, payment of a civil fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each violation not to exceed an aggregate civil fine of \$250,000.00.

(b) Suspension or revocation of the person's license or certificate of authority.

(c) Complete restitution, in the form, amount, and within the period determined by the commissioner, to all persons in this state damaged by the violation or failure to comply.

(7) The commissioner may recover reasonable attorney fees if judicial action is necessary for enforcement of a cease and desist order under this section.

History: Add. 1996, Act 314, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997.

Popular name: Act 218