## BEFORE THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS APPOINTED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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IN THE MATTER OF IKECHUKWU NWEZE STATE BAR CARD NO. 00792725

# CAUSE NO. 58338

FILED Nov 9, 2016 Board of Disciplinary Appeals

## PETITION FOR COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

### TO THE BOARD OF DISCIPLINARY APPEALS:

Petitioner, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline (hereinafter called "Petitioner"), brings this action against Respondent, Ikechukwu Nweze, (hereinafter called "Respondent"), showing as follows:

1. This action is commenced by Petitioner pursuant to Part VIII of the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. Petitioner is also providing Respondent a copy of this Board's procedures for handling a compulsory discipline matter by attaching a copy of such procedures to this petition.

2. Respondent, Ikechukwu Nweze, may be served with a true and correct copy of this Petition for Compulsory Discipline, its attachments, as well as a notice of hearing, at Ikechukwu Nweze, 4210 Merriweather Street, Sugar Land, Texas 77478.

3. On or about January 21, 2015, Respondent was charged by Indictment (Exhibit 1) with Insurance Fraud, in Cause No. 1436421, styled *The State of Texas v. Ikechukwu Nweze*, in the 176<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas.

4. On or about July 7, 2016, a Waiver of Constitutional Rights, Agreement to Stipulate and Judicial Confession (Exhibit 2) was entered in Cause No. 1436421, styled *The State of Texas v. Ikechukwu Nweze*, in the 176<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Insurance Fraud \$20,000 - \$100,000.

5. On or about July 28, 2016, an Order of Deferred Adjudication (Exhibit 3) was entered in Cause No. 143642101010, styled *The State of Texas v. Ikechukwu Nweze*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Insurance Fraud \$20,000 - \$100,000 and was placed on community supervision for four (4) years and, as a condition of community supervision, ordered to surrender his law license by September 7, 2016. Attached hereto and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein, are true and correct copies of the following documents in the Nweze criminal case: Indictment (Exhibit 1), Waiver of Constitutional Rights, Agreement to Stipulate and Judicial Confession (Exhibit 2), and Order of Deferred Adjudication (Exhibit 3). Petitioner expects to introduce certified copies of Exhibits 1 through 3 at the time of hearing of this cause.

6. Respondent, Ikechukwu Nweze, whose bar card number is 00792725, is the same person as the Ikechukwu Nweze who is the subject of the Indictment, Waiver of Constitutional Rights, Agreement to Stipulate and Judicial Confession, and Order of Deferred Adjudication described above, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 through 3.

7. Attached hereto as Exhibit 4 and made a part hereof for all intents and purposes as if the same were copied verbatim herein is a true and correct copy of an affidavit of Judith Gres DeBerry, Attorney of Record for Petitioner herein, attesting to the fact that Respondent is the same person as the person who is the subject of the Order of Deferred Adjudication entered in the Nweze criminal case. Petitioner expects to introduce the original of said affidavit at the time of hearing of this cause.

8. The offense for which Respondent was convicted is an intentional crime as defined by Rule 1.06(T), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. It is as well a serious crime as defined by Rule 1.06(AA), Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. 9. Having pled guilty to an intentional crime, and such judgment being final, Respondent should be disbarred as provided in Rule 8.05, Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.

# PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner prays that Respondent be given notice of these proceedings as provided by law and, upon hearing of this matter, that the Board enter its order disbarring Respondent and for such other and further relief to which Petitioner may be entitled to receive including costs of court and attorney's fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Acevedo Chief Disciplinary Counsel

# Judith Gres DeBerry

Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel STATE BAR OF TEXAS P.O. Box 12487, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711-2487 Telephone: 512.427.1350 Facsimile: 512.427.4167 Email: jdeberry@texasbar.com

Judith Gres DeBerry State Bar Card No. 24040780

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been sent for personal service on Ikechukwu Nweze, 4210 Merriweather Street, Sugar Land, Texas 77478on this  $\frac{2}{2}$  day of November 2016.

Judith Gres DeBerry

## **NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a trial on the merits of the Petition for Compulsory Discipline heretofore sent to be filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals on this day, will be held in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of Texas, Tom C. Clark Building, 14th and Colorado Streets, Austin, Texas, at 9:00 a.m. on the 27th day of January 2017.

Judith Gres DeBerry

# INTERNAL PROCEDURAL RULES

**Board of Disciplinary Appeals** 

Effective February 19, 2015

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#### SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **Rule 1.01 Definitions**

- (a) "BODA" is the Board of Disciplinary Appeals.
- (b) "Chair" is the member elected by BODA to serve as chair or, in the Chair's absence, the member elected by BODA to serve as vice-chair.
- (c) "Classification" is the determination by the CDC under TRDP 2.10 or by BODA under TRDP 7.08(C) whether a grievance constitutes a "complaint" or an "inquiry."
- (d) "BODA Clerk" is the executive director of BODA or other person appointed by BODA to assume all duties normally performed by the clerk of a court.
- (e) "CDC" is the Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas and his or her assistants.
- (f) "Commission" is the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, a permanent committee of the State Bar of Texas.
- (g) "Executive Director" is the executive director of BODA.
- (h) "Panel" is any three-member grouping of BODA under TRDP 7.05.
- (i) "Party" is a Complainant, a Respondent, or the Commission.
- (j) "TDRPC" is the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (k) "TRAP" is the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (I) "TRCP" is the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.
- (m) "TRDP" is the Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (n) "TRE" is the Texas Rules of Evidence.

#### **Rule 1.02 General Powers**

Under TRDP 7.08, BODA has and may exercise all the powers of either a trial court or an appellate court, as the case may be, in hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings. But TRDP 15.01 applies to the enforcement of a judgment of BODA.

#### Rule 1.03 Additional Rules in Disciplinary Matters

Except as varied by these rules and to the extent applicable, the TRCP, TRAP, and TRE apply to all disciplinary matters before BODA, except for appeals from classification decisions, which are governed by TRDP 2.10 and by Section 3 of these rules.

#### **Rule 1.04 Appointment of Panels**

- (a) BODA may consider any matter or motion by panel, except as specified in (b). The Chair may delegate to the Executive Director the duty to appoint a panel for any BODA action. Decisions are made by a majority vote of the panel; however, any panel member may refer a matter for consideration by BODA sitting en banc. Nothing in these rules gives a party the right to be heard by BODA sitting en banc.
- (b) Any disciplinary matter naming a BODA member as Respondent must be considered by BODA sitting en banc. A disciplinary matter naming a BODA staff member as Respondent need not be heard en banc.

#### Rule 1.05 Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Other Papers

- (a) **Electronic Filing.** All documents must be filed electronically. Unrepresented persons or those without the means to file electronically may electronically file documents, but it is not required.
  - (1) Email Address. The email address of an attorney or an unrepresented party who electronically files a document must be included on the document.
  - (2) **Timely Filing.** Documents are filed electronically by emailing the document to the BODA Clerk at the email address designated by BODA

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for that purpose. A document filed by email will be considered filed the day that the email is sent. The date sent is the date shown for the message in the inbox of the email account designated for receiving filings. If a document is sent after 5:00 p.m. or on a weekend or holiday officially observed by the State of Texas, it is considered filed the next business day.

- (3) It is the responsibility of the party filing a document by email to obtain the correct email address for BODA and to confirm that the document was received by BODA in legible form. Any document that is illegible or that cannot be opened as part of an email attachment will not be considered filed. If a document is untimely due to a technical failure or a system outage, the filing party may seek appropriate relief from BODA.
- (4) Exceptions.
  - An appeal to BODA of a decision by the CDC to classify a grievance as an inquiry is not required to be filed electronically.
  - (ii) The following documents must not be filed electronically:
    - a) documents that are filed under seal or subject to a pending motion to seal; and
    - b) documents to which access is otherwise restricted by court order.
  - (iii) For good cause, BODA may permit a party to file other documents in paper form in a particular case.
- (5) **Format.** An electronically filed document must:
  - (i) be in text-searchable portable

document format (PDF);

- (ii) be directly converted to PDF rather than scanned, if possible; and
- (iii) not be locked.
- (b) A paper will not be deemed filed if it is sent to an individual BODA member or to another address other than the address designated by BODA under Rule 1.05(a)(2).
- (c) Signing. Each brief, motion, or other paper filed must be signed by at least one attorney for the party or by the party pro se and must give the State Bar of Texas card number, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and fax number, if any, of each attorney whose name is signed or of the party (if applicable). A document is considered signed if the document includes:
  - (1) an "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or
  - (2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.
- (d) **Paper Copies.** Unless required by BODA, a party need not file a paper copy of an electronically filed document.
- (e) Service. Copies of all documents filed by any party other than the record filed by the evidentiary panel clerk or the court reporter must, at or before the time of filing, be served on all other parties as required and authorized by the TRAP.

#### **Rule 1.06 Service of Petition**

In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA initiated by service of a petition on the Respondent, the petition may be served by personal service; by certified mail with return receipt requested; or, if permitted by BODA, in any other manner that is authorized by the TRCP and reasonably calculated under all the circumstances to apprise the Respondent of the proceeding and to give him or her reasonable time to appear and answer. To establish service by certified mail, the return receipt must contain the Respondent's signature.

#### **Rule 1.07 Hearing Setting and Notice**

- (a) Original Petitions. In any kind of case initiated by the CDC's filing a petition or motion with BODA, the CDC may contact the BODA Clerk for the next regularly available hearing date before filing the original petition. If a hearing is set before the petition is filed, the petition must state the date, time, and place of the hearing. Except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the hearing date must be at least 30 days from the date that the petition is served on the Respondent.
- Expedited Settings. If a party desires a (b) hearing on a matter on a date earlier than the next regularly available BODA hearing date, the party may request an expedited setting in a written motion setting out the reasons for the request. Unless the parties agree otherwise, and except in the case of a petition to revoke probation under TRDP 2.23, the expedited hearing setting must be at least 30 days from the date of service of the petition, motion, or other pleading. BODA has the sole discretion to grant or deny a request for an expedited hearing date.
- (c) Setting Notices. BODA must notify the parties of any hearing date that is not noticed in an original petition or motion.
- (d) Announcement Docket. Attorneys and parties appearing before BODA must confirm their presence and present any questions regarding procedure to the BODA Clerk in the courtroom immediately prior to the time docket call is scheduled to begin. Each party with a matter on the docket must appear at the docket call to give an announcement of readiness, to give a time estimate for the hearing, and to present any preliminary motions or matters. Immediately

following the docket call, the Chair will set and announce the order of cases to be heard.

#### Rule 1.08 Time to Answer

The Respondent may file an answer at any time, except where expressly provided otherwise by these rules or the TRDP, or when an answer date has been set by prior order of BODA. BODA may, but is not required to, consider an answer filed the day of the hearing.

#### **Rule 1.09 Pretrial Procedure**

- (a) Motions.
  - (1) Generally. To request an order or other relief, a party must file a motion supported by sufficient cause with proof of service on all other parties. The motion must state with particularity the grounds on which it is based and set forth the relief sought. All supporting briefs, affidavits, or other documents must be served and filed with the motion. A party may file a response to a motion at any time before BODA rules on the motion or by any deadline set by BODA. Unless otherwise required by these rules or the TRDP, the form of a motion must comply with the TRCP or the TRAP.
  - (2) For Extension of Time. All motions for extension of time in any matter before BODA must be in writing, comply with (a)(1), and specify the following:
    - (i) if applicable, the date of notice of decision of the evidentiary panel, together with the number and style of the case;
    - (ii) if an appeal has been perfected, the date when the appeal was perfected;
    - (iii) the original deadline for filing the item in question;

- (iv) the length of time requested for the extension;
- (v) the number of extensions of time that have been granted previously regarding the item in question; and
- (vi) the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension.
- (b) **Pretrial Scheduling Conference.** Any party may request a pretrial scheduling conference, or BODA on its own motion may require a pretrial scheduling conference.
- (c) **Trial Briefs.** In any disciplinary proceeding before BODA, except with leave, all trial briefs and memoranda must be filed with the BODA Clerk no later than ten days before the day of the hearing.
- (d) Hearing Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Exhibits Tendered for Argument. A party may file a witness list, exhibit, or any other document to be used at a hearing or oral argument before the hearing or argument. A party must bring to the hearing an original and 12 copies of any document that was not filed at least one business day before the hearing. The original and copies must be:
  - (1) marked;
  - (2) indexed with the title or description of the item offered as an exhibit; and
  - (3) if voluminous, bound to lie flat when open and tabbed in accordance with the index.

All documents must be marked and provided to the opposing party before the hearing or argument begins.

#### **Rule 1.10 Decisions**

(a) **Notice of Decisions.** The BODA Clerk must give notice of all decisions and opinions to the parties or their attorneys of record.

- (b) **Publication of Decisions.** BODA must report judgments or orders of public discipline:
  - (1) as required by the TRDP; and
  - (2) on its website for a period of at least ten years following the date of the disciplinary judgment or order.
- (c) Abstracts of Classification Appeals. BODA may, in its discretion, prepare an abstract of a classification appeal for a public reporting service.

# Rule 1.11 Board of Disciplinary Appeals Opinions

- (a) BODA may render judgment in any disciplinary matter with or without written opinion. In accordance with TRDP 6.06, all written opinions of BODA are open to the public and must be made available to the public reporting services, print or electronic, for publishing. A majority of the members who participate in considering the disciplinary matter must determine if an opinion will be written. The names of the participating members must be noted on all written opinions of BODA.
- (b) Only a BODA member who participated in the decision of a disciplinary matter may file or join in a written opinion concurring in or dissenting from the judgment of BODA. For purposes of this rule, in hearings in which evidence is taken, no member may participate in the decision unless that member was present at the hearing. In all other proceedings, no member may participate unless that member has reviewed the record. Any member of BODA may file a written opinion in connection with the denial of a hearing or rehearing en banc.
- (c) A BODA determination in an appeal from a grievance classification decision under TRDP 2.10 is not a judgment for purposes of this rule and may be issued without a written opinion.

#### **Rule 1.12 BODA Work Product and Drafts**

A document or record of any nature—regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission—that is created or produced in connection with or related to BODA's adjudicative decision-making process is not subject to disclosure or discovery. This includes documents prepared by any BODA member, BODA staff, or any other person acting on behalf of or at the direction of BODA.

#### **Rule 1.13 Record Retention**

Records of appeals from classification decisions must be retained by the BODA Clerk for a period of at least three years from the date of disposition. Records of other disciplinary matters must be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of final judgment, or for at least one year after the date a suspension or disbarment ends, whichever is later. For purposes of this rule, a record is any document, paper, letter, map, book, tape, photograph, film, recording, or other material filed with BODA, regardless of its form, characteristics, or means of transmission.

# Rule 1.14 Costs of Reproduction of Records

The BODA Clerk may charge a reasonable amount for the reproduction of nonconfidential records filed with BODA. The fee must be paid in advance to the BODA Clerk.

#### Rule 1.15 Publication of These Rules

These rules will be published as part of the TDRPC and TRDP.

#### SECTION 2: ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### Rule 2.01 Representing or Counseling Parties in Disciplinary Matters and Legal Malpractice Cases

(a) A current member of BODA must not represent a party or testify voluntarily in a disciplinary action or proceeding. Any BODA member who is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to appear at a disciplinary action or proceeding, including at a deposition, must promptly notify the BODA Chair.

- (b) A current BODA member must not serve as an expert witness on the TDRPC.
- (c) A BODA member may represent a party in a legal malpractice case, provided that he or she is later recused in accordance with these rules from any proceeding before BODA arising out of the same facts.

#### Rule 2.02 Confidentiality

- (a) BODA deliberations are confidential, must not be disclosed by BODA members or staff, and are not subject to disclosure or discovery.
- Classification appeals, appeals from (b) evidentiarv judgments of private reprimand, appeals from an evidentiary judgment dismissing a case, interlocutory appeals or any interim proceedings from an ongoing evidentiary case, and disability cases are confidential under the TRDP. BODA must maintain all records associated with these cases 85 confidential, subject to disclosure only as provided in the TRDP and these rules.
- (c) If a member of BODA is subpoenaed or otherwise compelled by law to testify in any proceeding, the member must not disclose a matter that was discussed in conference in connection with a disciplinary case unless the member is required to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

# Rule 2.03 Disqualification and Recusal of BODA Members

- (a) BODA members are subject to disqualification and recusal as provided in TRCP 18b.
- (b) BODA members may, in addition to recusals under (a), voluntarily recuse themselves from any discussion and voting for any reason. The reasons that a BODA member is recused from a case are not subject to discovery.
- (c) These rules do not disqualify a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with,

the law firm of a BODA member from serving on a grievance committee or representing a party in a disciplinary proceeding or legal malpractice case. But a BODA member must recuse him- or herself from any matter in which a lawyer who is a member of, or associated with, the BODA member's firm is a party or represents a party.

#### SECTION 3: CLASSIFICATION APPEALS

#### Rule 3.01 Notice of Right to Appeal

- (a) If a grievance filed by the Complainant under TRDP 2.10 is classified as an inquiry, the CDC must notify the Complainant of his or her right to appeal as set out in TRDP 2.10 or another applicable rule.
- (b) To facilitate the potential filing of an appeal of a grievance classified as an inquiry, the CDC must send the Complainant an appeal notice form, approved by BODA, with the classification disposition. The form must include the docket number of the matter; the deadline for appealing; and information for mailing, faxing, or emailing the appeal notice form to BODA. The appeal notice form must be available in English and Spanish.

#### Rule 3.02 Record on Appeal

BODA must only consider documents that were filed with the CDC prior to the classification decision. When a notice of appeal from a classification decision has been filed, the CDC must forward to BODA a copy of the grievance and all supporting documentation. If the appeal challenges the classification of an amended grievance, the CDC must also send BODA a copy of the initial grievance, unless it has been destroyed.

#### SECTION 4: APPEALS FROM EVIDENTIARY PANEL HEARINGS

#### Rule 4.01 Perfecting Appeal

(a) **Appellate Timetable.** The date that the evidentiary judgment is signed starts the

appellate timetable under this section. To make TRDP 2.21 consistent with this requirement, the date that the judgment is signed is the "date of notice" under Rule 2.21.

- (b) Notification of the Evidentiary Judgment. The clerk of the evidentiary panel must notify the parties of the judgment as set out in TRDP 2.21.
  - (1) The evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Commission and the Respondent in writing of the judgment. The notice must contain a clear statement that any appeal of the judgment must be filed with BODA within 30 days of the date that the judgment was signed. The notice must include a copy of the judgment rendered.
  - The evidentiary panel clerk must (2)notify the Complainant that a judgment has been rendered and provide a copy of the judgment, unless the evidentiary panel dismissed the case or imposed a private reprimand. In the case of a dismissal or private reprimand, the evidentiary panel clerk must notify the Complainant of the decision and that the contents of the judgment are confidential. Under TRDP 2.16, no additional information regarding the contents of a judgment of dismissal or private reprimand may be disclosed to the Complainant.
- (c) Filing Notice of Appeal. An appeal is perfected when a written notice of appeal is filed with BODA. If a notice of appeal and any other accompanying documents are mistakenly filed with the evidentiary panel clerk, the notice is deemed to have been filed the same day with BODA, and the evidentiary panel clerk must immediately send the BODA Clerk a copy of the notice and any accompanying documents.

- (d) Time to File. In accordance with TRDP 2.24, the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days after the date the judgment is signed. In the event a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is timely filed with the evidentiary panel, the notice of appeal must be filed with BODA within 90 days from the date the judgment is signed.
- (e) Extension of Time. A motion for an extension of time to file the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 15 days after the last day allowed for filing the notice of appeal. The motion must comply with Rule 1.09.

#### Rule 4.02 Record on Appeal

- (a) **Contents.** The record on appeal consists of the evidentiary panel clerk's record and, where necessary to the appeal, a reporter's record of the evidentiary panel hearing.
- (b) Stipulation as to Record. The parties may designate parts of the clerk's record and the reporter's record to be included in the record on appeal by written stipulation filed with the clerk of the evidentiary panel.

#### (c) Responsibility for Filing Record.

- (1) Clerk's Record.
  - After receiving notice that an appeal has been filed, the clerk of the evidentiary panel is responsible for preparing, certifying, and timely filing the clerk's record.
  - (ii) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the clerk's record on appeal must contain the items listed in TRAP 34.5(a) and any other paper on file with the evidentiary panel, including the election letter, all pleadings on which the hearing was held, the docket sheet, the evidentiary panel's charge, any findings of

fact and conclusions of law, all other pleadings, the judgment or other orders appealed from, the notice of decision sent to each party, any postsubmission pleadings and briefs, and the notice of appeal.

- (iii) If the clerk of the evidentiary panel is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the clerk's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain why the clerk's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the clerk's record to be filed.
- (2) Reporter's Record.
  - (i) The court reporter for the evidentiary panel is responsible for timely filing the reporter's record if:
    - a) a notice of appeal has been filed;
    - b) a party has requested that all or part of the reporter's record be prepared; and
    - c) the party requesting all or part of the reporter's record has paid the reporter's fee or has made satisfactory arrangements with the reporter.
  - (ii) If the court reporter is unable for any reason to prepare and transmit the reporter's record by the due date, he or she must promptly notify BODA and the parties, explain the reasons why the reporter's record cannot be timely filed, and give the date by which he or she expects the reporter's record to be filed.
- (d) Preparation of Clerk's Record.
  - (1) To prepare the clerk's record, the

evidentiary panel clerk must:

- (i) gather the documents designated by the parties' written stipulation or, if no stipulation was filed, the documents required under (c)(1)(ii);
- (ii) start each document on a new page;
- (iii) include the date of filing on each document;
- (iv) arrange the documents in chronological order, either by the date of filing or the date of occurrence;
- (v) number the pages of the clerk's record in the manner required by (d)(2);
- (vi) prepare and include, after the front cover of the clerk's record, a detailed table of contents that complies with (d)(3); and
- (vii) certify the clerk's record.
- (2) The clerk must start the page numbering on the front cover of the first volume of the clerk's record and continue to number all pages consecutively—including the front and back covers, tables of contents, certification page, and separator pages, if any—until the final page of the clerk's record, without regard for the number of volumes in the clerk's record, and place each page number at the bottom of each page.
- (3) The table of contents must:
  - (i) identify each document in the entire record (including sealed documents); the date each document was filed; and, except for sealed documents, the page on which each

document begins;

- (ii) be double-spaced;
- (iii) conform to the order in which documents appear in the clerk's record, rather than in alphabetical order;
- (iv) contain bookmarks linking each description in the table of contents (except for descriptions of sealed documents) to the page on which the document begins; and
- (v) if the record consists of multiple volumes, indicate the page on which each volume begins.
- (e) Electronic Filing of the Clerk's Record. The evidentiary panel clerk must file the record electronically. When filing a clerk's record in electronic form, the evidentiary panel clerk must:
  - file each computer file in textsearchable Portable Document Format (PDF);
  - (2) create electronic bookmarks to mark the first page of each document in the clerk's record;
  - (3) limit the size of each computer file to 100 MB or less, if possible; and
  - (4) directly convert, rather than scan, the record to PDF, if possible.
- (f) Preparation of the Reporter's Record.
  - (1) The appellant, at or before the time prescribed for perfecting the appeal, must make a written request for the reporter's record to the court reporter for the evidentiary panel. The request must designate the portion of the evidence and other proceedings to be included. A copy of the request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the appellee. The

reporter's record must be certified by the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

- (2) The court reporter or recorder must prepare and file the reporter's record in accordance with TRAP 34.6 and 35 and the Uniform Format Manual for Texas Reporters' Records.
- (3) The court reporter or recorder must file the reporter's record in an electronic format by emailing the document to the email address designated by BODA for that purpose.
- (4) The court reporter or recorder must include either a scanned image of any required signature or "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear.
- (5) A court reporter or recorder must not lock any document that is part of the record.
- (6) In exhibit volumes, the court reporter or recorder must create bookmarks to mark the first page of each exhibit document.
- (g) Other Requests. At any time before the clerk's record is prepared, or within ten days after service of a copy of appellant's request for the reporter's record, any party may file a written designation requesting that additional exhibits and portions of testimony be included in the record. The request must be filed with the evidentiary panel and BODA and must be served on the other party.
- (h) Inaccuracies or Defects. If the clerk's record is found to be defective or inaccurate, the BODA Clerk must inform the clerk of the evidentiary panel of the defect or inaccuracy and instruct the clerk to make the correction. Any inaccuracies in the reporter's record may be corrected by agreement of the parties without the court reporter's recertification. Any dispute regarding the reporter's record

that the parties are unable to resolve by agreement must be resolved by the evidentiary panel.

(i) Appeal from Private Reprimand. Under TRDP 2.16, in an appeal from a judgment of private reprimand, BODA must mark the record as confidential, remove the attorney's name from the case style, and take any other steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of the private reprimand.

#### Rule 4.03 Time to File Record

- Timetable. The clerk's record and (a) reporter's record must be filed within 60 days after the date the judgment is signed. If a motion for new trial or motion to modify the judgment is filed with the evidentiary panel, the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 120 days from the date the original judgment is signed, unless a modified judgment is signed, in which case the clerk's record and the reporter's record must be filed within 60 days of the signing of the modified judgment. Failure to file either the clerk's record or the reporter's record on time does not affect BODA's jurisdiction, but may result in BODA's exercising its discretion to dismiss the appeal, affirm the judgment appealed from, disregard materials filed late, or apply presumptions against the appellant.
- (b) If No Record Filed.
  - (1) If the clerk's record or reporter's record has not been timely filed, the BODA Clerk must send notice to the party responsible for filing it, stating that the record is late and requesting that the record be filed within 30 days. The BODA Clerk must send a copy of this notice to all the parties and the clerk of the evidentiary panel.
  - (2) If no reporter's record is filed due to appellant's fault, and if the clerk's

record has been filed, BODA may, after first giving the appellant notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, consider and decide those issues or points that do not require a reporter's record for a decision. BODA may do this if no reporter's record has been filed because:

- the appellant failed to request a reporter's record; or
- (ii) the appellant failed to pay or make arrangements to pay the reporter's fee to prepare the reporter's record, and the appellant is not entitled to proceed without payment of costs.
- (c) Extension of Time to File the Reporter's Record. When an extension of time is requested for filing the reporter's record, the facts relied on to reasonably explain the need for an extension must be supported by an affidavit of the court reporter. The affidavit must include the court reporter's estimate of the earliest date when the reporter's record will be available for filing.
- (d) **Supplemental Record.** If anything material to either party is omitted from the clerk's record or reporter's record, BODA may, on written motion of a party or on its own motion, direct a supplemental record to be certified and transmitted by the clerk for the evidentiary panel or the court reporter for the evidentiary panel.

#### Rule 4.04 Copies of the Record

The record may not be withdrawn from the custody of the BODA Clerk. Any party may obtain a copy of the record or any designated part thereof by making a written request to the BODA Clerk and paying any charges for reproduction in advance.

#### Rule 4.05 Requisites of Briefs

(a) Appellant's Filing Date. Appellant's brief must be filed within 30 days after

the clerk's record or the reporter's record is filed, whichever is later.

- (b) **Appellee's Filing Date.** Appellee's brief must be filed within 30 days after the appellant's brief is filed.
- (c) Contents. Briefs must contain:
  - a complete list of the names and addresses of all parties to the final decision and their counsel;
  - (2) a table of contents indicating the subject matter of each issue or point, or group of issues or points, with page references where the discussion of each point relied on may be found;
  - (3) an index of authorities arranged alphabetically and indicating the pages where the authorities are cited;
  - (4) a statement of the case containing a brief general statement of the nature of the cause or offense and the result;
  - (5) a statement, without argument, of the basis of BODA's jurisdiction;
  - (6) a statement of the issues presented for review or points of error on which the appeal is predicated;
  - (7) a statement of facts that is without argument, is supported by record references, and details the facts relating to the issues or points relied on in the appeal;
  - (8) the argument and authorities;
  - (9) conclusion and prayer for relief;
  - (10) a certificate of service; and
  - (11) an appendix of record excerpts pertinent to the issues presented for review.
- (d) Length of Briefs; Contents Included and Excluded. In calculating the length of a document, every word and every part

of the document, including headings, footnotes, and quotations, must be counted except the following: caption. identity of the parties and counsel, statement regarding oral argument, table of contents, index of authorities, statement of the case, statement of issues presented. statement of the iurisdiction, signature, proof of service, certificate of compliance, and appendix. Briefs must not exceed 15,000 words if computer-generated, and 50 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A reply brief must not exceed 7,500 words if computer-generated, and 25 pages if not, except on leave of BODA. A computer-generated document must include a certificate by counsel or the unrepresented party stating the number of words in the document. The person who signs the certification may rely on the word count of the computer program used to prepare the document.

- (e) Amendment or Supplementation. BODA has discretion to grant leave to amend or supplement briefs.
- (f) Failure of the Appellant to File a Brief. If the appellant fails to timely file a brief, BODA may:
  - dismiss the appeal for want of prosecution, unless the appellant reasonably explains the failure, and the appellee is not significantly injured by the appellant's failure to timely file a brief;
  - (2) decline to dismiss the appeal and make further orders within its discretion as it considers proper, or
  - (3) if an appellee's brief is filed, regard that brief as correctly presenting the case and affirm the evidentiary panel's judgment on that brief without examining the record.

#### **Rule 4.06 Oral Argument**

(a) **Request.** A party desiring oral argument must note the request on the front cover of the party's brief. A party's failure to timely request oral argument waives the party's right to argue. A party who has requested argument may later withdraw the request. But even if a party has waived oral argument, BODA may direct the party to appear and argue. If oral argument is granted, the clerk will notify the parties of the time and place for submission.

- (b) **Right to Oral Argument.** A party who has filed a brief and who has timely requested oral argument may argue the case to BODA unless BODA, after examining the briefs, decides that oral argument is unnecessary for any of the following reasons:
  - (1) the appeal is frivolous;
  - (2) the dispositive issue or issues have been authoritatively decided;
  - (3) the facts and legal arguments are adequately presented in the briefs and record; or
  - (4) the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument.
- (c) Time Allowed. Each party will have 20 minutes to argue. BODA may, on the request of a party or on its own, extend or shorten the time allowed for oral argument. The appellant may reserve a portion of his or her allotted time for rebuttal.

#### **Rule 4.07 Decision and Judgment**

- (a) **Decision.** BODA may do any of the following:
  - (1) affirm in whole or in part the decision of the evidentiary panel;
  - (2) modify the panel's findings and affirm the findings as modified;
  - (3) reverse in whole or in part the panel's findings and render the decision that the panel should have rendered; or
  - (4) reverse the panel's findings and

BODA Internal Procedural Rules 11

remand the cause for further proceedings to be conducted by:

- (i) the panel that entered the findings; or
- (ii) a statewide grievance committee panel appointed by BODA and composed of members selected from the state bar districts other than the district from which the appeal was taken.
- (b) Mandate. In every appeal, the BODA Clerk must issue a mandate in accordance with BODA's judgment and send it to the evidentiary panel and to all the parties.

# Rule 4.08 Appointment of Statewide Grievance Committee

If BODA remands a cause for further proceedings before a statewide grievance committee, the BODA Chair will appoint the statewide grievance committee in accordance with TRDP 2.27. The committee must consist of six members: four attorney members and two public members randomly selected from the current pool of grievance committee members. Two alternates, consisting of one attorney and one public member, must also be selected. BODA will appoint the initial chair who will serve until the members of the statewide grievance committee elect a chair of the committee at the first meeting. The BODA Clerk will notify the Respondent and the CDC that a committee has been appointed.

#### Rule 4.09 Involuntary Dismissal

Under the following circumstances and on any party's motion or on its own initiative after giving at least ten days' notice to all parties, BODA may dismiss the appeal or affirm the appealed judgment or order. Dismissal or affirmance may occur if the appeal is subject to dismissal:

- (a) for want of jurisdiction;
- (b) for want of prosecution; or
- (c) because the appellant has failed to comply with a requirement of these rules, a court order, or a notice from the clerk requiring

a response or other action within a specified time.

# SECTION 5: PETITIONS TO REVOKE PROBATION

#### Rule 5.01 Initiation and Service

- (a) Before filing a motion to revoke the probation of an attorney who has been sanctioned, the CDC must contact the BODA Clerk to confirm whether the next regularly available hearing date will comply with the 30-day requirement of TRDP. The Chair may designate a threemember panel to hear the motion, if necessary, to meet the 30-day requirement of TRDP 2.23.
- (b) Upon filing the motion, the CDC must serve the Respondent with the motion and any supporting documents in accordance with TRDP 2.23, the TRCP, and these rules. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained on the Respondent.

#### Rule 5.02 Hearing

Within 30 days of service of the motion on the Respondent, BODA must docket and set the matter for a hearing and notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. On a showing of good cause by a party or on its own motion, BODA may continue the case to a future hearing date as circumstances require.

#### SECTION 6: COMPULSORY DISCIPLINE

#### Rule 6.01 Initiation of Proceeding

Under TRDP 8.03, the CDC must file a petition for compulsory discipline with BODA and serve the Respondent in accordance with the TRDP and Rule 1.06 of these rules.

#### **Rule 6.02 Interlocutory Suspension**

(a) Interlocutory Suspension. In any compulsory proceeding under TRDP Part VIII in which BODA determines that the Respondent has been convicted of an Intentional Crime and that the criminal conviction is on direct appeal, BODA may suspend the Respondent's license to practice law by interlocutory order. In any compulsory case in which BODA has imposed an interlocutory order of suspension, BODA retains jurisdiction to render final judgment after the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final. For purposes of rendering final judgment in a compulsory discipline case, the direct appeal of the criminal conviction is final when the appellate court issues its mandate.

- (b) Criminal Conviction Affirmed. If the criminal conviction made the basis of a compulsory interlocutory suspension is affirmed and becomes final, the CDC must file a motion for final judgment that complies with TRDP 8.05.
  - If the criminal sentence is fully probated or is an order of deferred adjudication, the motion for final judgment must contain notice of a hearing date. The motion will be set on BODA's next available hearing date.
  - (2) If the criminal sentence is not fully probated:
    - BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing if the attorney does not file a verified denial within ten days of service of the motion; or
    - (ii) BODA may set the motion for a hearing on the next available hearing date if the attorney timely files a verified denial.
  - (c) Criminal Conviction Reversed. If an appellate court issues a mandate reversing the criminal conviction while a Respondent is subject to an interlocutory suspension, the Respondent may file a motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension. The motion to terminate the interlocutory suspension must have certified copies of the decision and mandate of the reversing court

attached. If the CDC does not file an opposition to the termination within ten days of being served with the motion, BODA may proceed to decide the motion without a hearing or set the matter for a hearing on its own motion. If the CDC timely opposes the motion, BODA must set the motion for a hearing on its next available hearing date. An order terminating an interlocutory order of suspension does not automatically reinstate a Respondent's license.

#### SECTION 7: RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

#### Rule 7.01 Initiation of Proceeding

The Commission for Lawyer Discipline may initiate an action for reciprocal discipline by filing a petition with BODA under TRDP Part IX and these rules. The petition must request that the Respondent be disciplined in Texas and have attached to it any information concerning the disciplinary matter from the other jurisdiction, including a certified copy of the order or judgment rendered against the Respondent.

#### Rule 7.02 Order to Show Cause

When a petition is filed, the Chair immediately issues a show cause order and a hearing notice and forwards them to the CDC, who must serve the order and notice on the Respondent. The CDC must notify BODA of the date that service is obtained.

#### Rule 7.03 Attorney's Response

If the Respondent does not file an answer within 30 days of being served with the order and notice but thereafter appears at the hearing, BODA may, at the discretion of the Chair, receive testimony from the Respondent relating to the merits of the petition.

#### SECTION 8: DISTRICT DISABILITY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

#### Rule 8.01 Appointment of District Disability Committee

(a) If the evidentiary panel of the grievance committee finds under TRDP 2.17(P)(2),

or the CDC reasonably believes under TRDP 2.14(C), that a Respondent is suffering from a disability, the rules in this section will apply to the de novo proceeding before the District Disability Committee held under TRDP Part XII.

- (b) Upon receiving an evidentiary panel's finding or the CDC's referral that an attorney is believed to be suffering from a disability, the BODA Chair must appoint a District Disability Committee in compliance with TRDP 12.02 and designate a chair. BODA will reimburse District Disability Committee members for reasonable expenses directly related to service on the District Disability Committee. The BODA Clerk must notify the CDC and the Respondent that a committee has been appointed and notify the Respondent where to locate the procedural rules governing disability proceedings.
- (c) A Respondent who has been notified that a disability referral will be or has been made to BODA may, at any time, waive in writing the appointment of the District Disability Committee or the hearing before the District Disability Committee and enter into an agreed judgment of indefinite disability suspension, provided that the Respondent is competent to waive the hearing. If the Respondent is not represented, the waiver must include a statement affirming that the Respondent has been advised of the right to appointed counsel and waives that right as well.
- (d) All pleadings, motions, briefs, or other matters to be filed with the District Disability Committee must be filed with the BODA Clerk.
- (e) Should any member of the District Disability Committee become unable to serve, the BODA Chair may appoint a substitute member.

#### **Rule 8.02 Petition and Answer**

- (a) Petition. Upon being notified that the District Disability Committee has been appointed by BODA, the CDC must, within 20 days, file with the BODA Clerk and serve on the Respondent a copy of a petition for indefinite disability suspension. Service may be made in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested. If service is by certified mail, the return receipt with the Respondent's signature must be filed with the BODA Clerk.
- (b) **Answer.** The Respondent must, within 30 days after service of the petition for indefinite disability suspension, file an answer with the BODA Clerk and serve a copy of the answer on the CDC.
- (c) **Hearing Setting.** The BODA Clerk must set the final hearing as instructed by the chair of the District Disability Committee and send notice of the hearing to the parties.

#### Rule 8.03 Discovery

- (a) Limited Discovery. The District Disability Committee may permit limited discovery. The party seeking discovery must file with the BODA Clerk a written request that makes a clear showing of good cause and substantial need and a proposed order. If the District Disability Committee authorizes discovery in a case, it must issue a written order. The order may impose limitations or deadlines on the discovery.
- (b) Physical or Mental Examinations. On written motion by the Commission or on its own motion, the District Disability Committee may order the Respondent to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. Nothing in this rule limits the Respondent's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam

ordered by the District Disability Committee.

- (1) Motion. The Respondent must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
- (2) **Report.** The examining professional must file with the BODA Clerk a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the CDC and the Respondent.
- (c) Objections. A party must make any objection to a request for discovery within 15 days of receiving the motion by filing a written objection with the BODA Clerk. BODA may decide any objection or contest to a discovery motion.

#### Rule 8.04 Ability to Compel Attendance

The Respondent and the CDC may confront and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. Compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses by subpoena, enforceable by an order of a district court of proper jurisdiction, is available to the Respondent and the CDC as provided in TRCP 176.

#### Rule 8.05 Respondent's Right to Counsel

- (a) The notice to the Respondent that a District Disability Committee has been appointed and the petition for indefinite disability suspension must state that the Respondent may request appointment of counsel by BODA to represent him or her at the disability hearing. BODA will reimburse appointed counsel for reasonable expenses directly related to representation of the Respondent.
- (b) To receive appointed counsel under TRDP 12.02, the Respondent must file a written request with the BODA Clerk

within 30 days of the date that Respondent is served with the petition for indefinite disability suspension. A late request must demonstrate good cause for the Respondent's failure to file a timely request.

#### Rule 8.06 Hearing

The party seeking to establish the disability must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Respondent is suffering from a disability as defined in the TRDP. The chair of the District Disability Committee must admit all relevant evidence that is necessary for a fair and complete hearing. The TRE are advisory but not binding on the chair.

#### **Rule 8.07 Notice of Decision**

The District Disability Committee must certify its finding regarding disability to BODA, which will issue the final judgment in the matter.

#### **Rule 8.08 Confidentiality**

All proceedings before the District Disability Committee and BODA, if necessary, are closed to the public. All matters before the District Disability Committee are confidential and are not subject to disclosure or discovery, except as allowed by the TRDP or as may be required in the event of an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas.

#### SECTION 9: DISABILITY REINSTATEMENTS

#### Rule 9.01 Petition for Reinstatement

- (a) An attorney under an indefinite disability suspension may, at any time after he or she has been suspended, file a verified petition with BODA to have the suspension terminated and to be reinstated to the practice of law. The petitioner must serve a copy of the petition on the CDC in the manner required by TRDP 12.06. The TRCP apply to a reinstatement proceeding unless they conflict with these rules.
- (b) The petition must include the information required by TRDP 12.06. If the judgment of disability suspension contained terms

or conditions relating to misconduct by the petitioner prior to the suspension, the petition must affirmatively demonstrate that those terms have been complied with or explain why they have not been satisfied. The petitioner has a duty to amend and keep current all information in the petition until the final hearing on the merits. Failure to do so may result in dismissal without notice.

(c) Disability reinstatement proceedings before BODA are not confidential; however, BODA may make all or any part of the record of the proceeding confidential.

#### **Rule 9.02 Discovery**

The discovery period is 60 days from the date that the petition for reinstatement is filed. The BODA Clerk will set the petition for a hearing on the first date available after the close of the discovery period and must notify the parties of the time and place of the hearing. BODA may continue the hearing for good cause shown.

#### **Rule 9.03 Physical or Mental Examinations**

- (a) On written motion by the Commission or on its own, BODA may order the petitioner seeking reinstatement to submit to a physical or mental examination by a qualified healthcare or mental healthcare professional. The petitioner must be served with a copy of the motion and given at least seven days to respond. BODA may hold a hearing before ruling on the motion but is not required to do so.
- (b) The petitioner must be given reasonable notice of the examination by written order specifying the name, address, and telephone number of the person conducting the examination.
- (c) The examining professional must file a detailed, written report that includes the results of all tests performed and the professional's findings, diagnoses, and conclusions. The professional must send a copy of the report to the parties.

- (d) If the petitioner fails to submit to an examination as ordered, BODA may dismiss the petition without notice.
- (e) Nothing in this rule limits the petitioner's right to an examination by a professional of his or her choice in addition to any exam ordered by BODA.

#### Rule 9.04 Judgment

If, after hearing all the evidence, BODA determines that the petitioner is not eligible for reinstatement, BODA may, in its discretion, either enter an order denying the petition or direct that the petition be held in abeyance for a reasonable period of time until the petitioner provides additional proof as directed by BODA. The judgment may include other orders necessary to protect the public and the petitioner's potential clients.

#### SECTION 10: APPEALS FROM BODA TO THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

#### Rule 10.01 Appeals to the Supreme Court

- (a) A final decision by BODA, except a determination that a statement constitutes an inquiry or a complaint under TRDP 2.10, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Texas. The clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas must docket an appeal from a decision by BODA in the same manner as a petition for review without fee.
- (b) The appealing party must file the notice of appeal directly with the clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas within 14 days of receiving notice of a final determination by BODA. The record must be filed within 60 days after BODA's determination. The appealing party's brief is due 30 days after the record is filed, and the responding party's brief is due 30 days thereafter. The BODA Clerk must send the parties a notice of BODA's final decision that includes the information in this paragraph.
- (c) An appeal to the Supreme Court is governed by TRDP 7.11 and the TRAP.



THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. IKECHUKWU NWEZE 8303 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY #900 HOUSTON, TX

SPN: 2747108 DOB: BM 08/08/1952 DATE PREPARED: 1/20/2015 D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2085378 CJIS TRACKING NO.: 9170062854-A001 BY: PW DA NO: 001759318 AGENCY:DPS O/R NO: X2B2130132 ARREST DATE: 07/29/14

NCIC CODE: 2699 16

RELATED CASES: ONE OTHER FELONY; CO-DEFS: J. MATURELL REYES-3 FEL;E. ARIAS GURRIA-2 FEL; P. OSUAGWU-2 FEL; E. UYAMADU-2 FEL; D. AUSMUS-2 FEL

FELONY CHARGE: INSURANCE FRAUD CAUSE NO: 1436421 HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 176 FIRST SETTING DATE:

BAIL: \$112,000.00 PRIOR CAUSE NO:

#### IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, **IKECHUKWU NWEZE**, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about **APRIL 1**, 2014, did then and there unlawfully, with intent to defraud and deceive an insurer, namely, UAIS, offer a benefit in connection with the furnishing of goods and services for which a claim for payment was to be submitted under an insurance policy, and the value of said claim was twenty thousand dollars or more but less than one hundred thousand dollars.

For Official Governmentation (2000) - Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 63922359 - Page 1 of Page		FILE ED Chris Daniel District Clerk JAN 21 2015 Harris County Taxas By Doddy
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I, Chris Daniel, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date. Witness my official hand and seal of office this <u>September 28, 2016</u>

Certified Document Number:

63922359 Total Pages: 1

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Chris Daniel, DISTRICT CLERK HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

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THE STATE OF TEXAS VS.		D.A. LOG NUMBER: <b>2085378</b> CJIS TRACKING NO.: <b>9170062854-A001</b>
IKECHUKWU NWEZE 8303 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY #900 HOUSTON, TX	SPN: Dob: BM 08/08/1952 Date Prepared: 1/20/2015	BY: PW DA NO: 001759318 AGENCY:DPS O/R NO: X2B2130132 ARREST DATE: 07/29/14
NCIC CODE: 2699 16	FEL;E. ARIAS	FELONY; CO-DEFS: J. MATURELL REYES-3 S GURRIA-2 FEL; P. OSUAGWU-2 FEL; E. FEL; D. AUSMUS-2 FEL
FELONY CHARGE: INSURANCE FRAUE CAUSE NO: 1436421 HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: FIRST SETTING DATE:		BAIL: <b>\$112,000.00</b> PRIOR CAUSE NO:

#### WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AGREEMENT TO STIPULATE, AND JUDICIAL CONFESSION

In open court and prior to entering my plea, I waive the right of trial by jury. I also waive the appearance, confrontation, and cross-examination of witnesses, and my right against self-incrimination. The charges against me allege that in Harris County, Texas, IKECHUKWU NWEZE, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about APRIL 1, 2014, did then and there unlawfully, with intent to defraud and deceive an insurer, namely, UAIS, offer a benefit in connection with the furnishing of goods and services for which a claim for payment was to be submitted under an insurance policy, and the value of said claim was twenty thousand dollars or more but less than one hundred thousand dollars.

#### AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

For Official Governmental Use Only - Do Not Disseminate tofth Public 7155041 - Page 1 of 11 surrender law license 5 as ce condition **RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM** This instrument is of poor quality at the time of imaging Exhibit

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I understand the above allegations and I confess that they are true and that the acts alleged above were committed on

2014 In open court I consent to the oral and written stipulation of evidence in this case and to the introduction of affidavits, written statements, of witnesses, and other documentary evidence. I am satisfied that the attorney representing me today in court has properly represented me and I have fully discussed this case with him. I intend to enter a plea of guilty and the prosecutor will recommend that my punishment should be set at 2016 Surrender lan 1 WS DADT + September ( Omhung Hon and I agree to that recommendation. I waive any further time to prepare for trial to which I or my attorney may be entitled. Further, I waive any right of appeal which I may have should the court accept the foregoing plea bargain agreement between myself and the prosecutor. 7-7-16 JUL 0 7 2016 Sworn to and Subscribed before me on HARRIS COUNTY DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK I represent the defendant in this case and I believe that this document was executed by him knowingly and voluntarily and after I fully discussed it and its consequences with him. I believe that he is competent to stand trial. I agree to the prosecutor's recommendation as to punishment. I wave any further time to prepare for trial to which I or the defendant may be entitled. EFENDANT'S ATTORNEY (PRINT) SIGNATURE OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY As of the second dependence of the second depe ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS This document was executed by the defendant, his attorney, and the attorney representing the State, and then filed with the papers of the case. The defendant then came before me and I approved the above and the defendant entered a plea of guilty. After I admonished the defendant of the defendant is mentally competent and the plea is free and voluntary. I find that the defendant's attorney is competent and has e represented the defendant in this case. I informed the defendant that I would not exceed the agreed recommendation as to punishment. consequences of his plea, I ascertained that he entered it knowingly and voluntarily after discussing the case with his attorney. It appears that the defendant is mentally competent and the plea is free and voluntary. I find that the defendant's attorney is competent and has effectively

CAUSE NO. 436112

THE STATE OF TEXAS ekun Nuze VŚ.

IN THE 185<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT

OF

1 as

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

#### **ADMONISHMENTS**

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Pursuant to Article 26.13(d), Code of Criminal Procedure, the Court admonishes you, the Defendant, as follows and instructs you to place your initials by each item if you fully understand it; ol - 100k

(1) You are charged with the felony offense of <u>JuSurance</u>

The State moves to reduce such charge to

Onl

If convicted, you face the following range of punishment:

Habitual Sex Offender: a term of not less than life in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal [ 1 Justice for defendant convicted of aggravated sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually, burglary with the intent/to commit a sex offense, or indecency with a child, if enhanced with a prior felony conviction for aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping with the intent to violate or abuse the victim sexually, burglary with the intent to commit a sex offense, indecency with a child, sexual performance by a child, promotion or possession of/child pornography, or prohibited sexual conduct;

Disseminate to the Public: 71355041 - Page 3 of 11 Habitual Offender / If it is shown on the trial of a felony offense that the defendant has previously been finally convicted/of two felony offenses, and the second previous felony conviction is for an offense that occurred subsequent to the first previous conviction having become final, on conviction he shall be punished by imprisonment in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life, or for any term of not more than 99 years or less than 25 years;

First Degrée Felony: a term of life or any term of not more than 99 years or less than 5 years in the Institutional Division of the Texes Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed; if. enhanced with one prior felony conviction, a term of life or any term of not more than 99 years or less than 15 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

Second Degree Felony: a term of not more than 20 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the 1 Texas Department of Criminal Justice and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed; if enhanced with one prior felony conviction, a term of life or any term of not more than 99 years or less than 5 years in the Institutional Division of  $\stackrel{>}{\gtrsim}$  the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

Third Degree Felony: a term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed; if enhanced with one prior felony conviction, a term of not more than 20 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of For Official Governmental Use Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

[ ] <u>State Jail Felony</u>: (under Art. 26.13 V.A.C.C.P.) a term of confinement in a State Jail for not less than 180 days or more than 2 years, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed. Upon conviction for a State Jail Felony offense, the period of confinement may be suspended and you may be placed under supervision of the Court for a period of not less than 2 years or more than 5 years or may order the sentence to be executed. The Court may also suspend all or part of any fine assessed;

( ) As a condition of supervision, if you have never before been convicted of a felony offense, the Court may order than you be confined for up to 90 days in the county jail or not less than 90 days or more than 180 days in a State Jail;

( ) If you are convicted of delivery of less than 1 gram of Penalty Group 1 or Penalty Group 2 controlled substance or delivery of five pounds or less but more than one-fourth ounce of marijuana, the Court may order as a condition of supervision that you be confined for not less than 90 days nor more than 1 year in a State Jail;

[ ] <u>A State Jail Felony with a Deadly Weapon Finding</u>: if a State Jail Felony, punishable under Section 12.35(a) of the Texas Penal Code, is enhanced with a deadly weapon paragraph, as defined by Section 1.07 of the Penal Code, was used or exhibited, a term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

[ ] <u>A State Jail Felony with a prior conviction for a 3g offense under Art. 42.12, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure</u>: if a state jail felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) of the Texas Penal Code is enhanced with a prior felony conviction for a 3g offense under Article 42.12 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, a term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

[ ] <u>A State Jail Felony with two State Jail Felony convictions</u>: if a State Jail Felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) of the Texas Penal Code is enhanced with two final State Jail Felony convictions, a term of not more than 10 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

[ ] <u>State Jail Felony with two Felony Convictions</u>: if a State Jail Felony punishable under Section 12.35(a) of the Texas Penal Code is enhanced with two previous final felony convictions, and the second previous felony conviction is for an offense that occurred subsequent to the first previous conviction becoming final, a term of not more than 20 years or less than 2 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and, in addition, a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be assessed;

[ ] <u>A State Jail Felony and sentenced under 12.44(a)</u>: a term of confinement in the county jail not to exceed one year which is a felony conviction;

[ ] <u>A state Jail Pelony and Sentenced under 12.44(b)</u>: a term of confinement in the county jail not to exceed one year which is a misdemeanor conviction;

[ ] <u>Class A Misdemeanor</u>: a term of confinement in the county jail not to exceed one year or a fine not to exceed \$4,000.00, or both;

[ ] <u>Class B Misdemeanor</u>: a term of confinement in the county jail not to exceed 180 days or a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00, or both;

] <u>Other</u>:

(2)

- Page 4 of 11

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The recommendation, if any, of the prosecuting attorney as to punishment is not binding on the Court;

[ ] (3) If there is any plea bargain agreement between the State and you, the Court will inform you in open court whether it will follow such agreement before making any finding on your plea;

[ ] (4) The Court will permit you to withdraw your plea of guilty or nolo contendere should it reject any plea bargain agreement;

[ ] (5) If the punishment assessed by the Court does not exceed the punishment recommended by the prosecutor and agreed to by you and your attorney, the Court must give its permission to you before you may prosecute an appeal on any matter in this case except for those matters raised by you by written motion filed prior to trial;

[ ] (6) If you are not a citizen of the United States of America, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for the offense with which you are charged in this case may result in your deportation, your exclusion from admission to this country, or your denial of naturalization under federal law.

### STATEMENTS AND WAIVERS OF DEFENDANT

NOW COMES the Defendant in the above captioned cause and makes the following statements and waivers prior to the Court accepting my plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere.

[ ] (1) I am mentally competent and I understand the nature of the charge against me;

[ ] (2) I understand the admonishments of the trial court set out herein;

[ ] (3) I hereby **WAIVE** the right to have the trial court orally admonish me;

] (4) I WAIVE the right to have a court reporter record my plea;

[ ] (5) I represent to the trial court that the State will make the plea bargain agreement or recommendation, if any, set forth in the Waiver of Constitutional Rights, Agreement to Stipulate, and Judicial Confession herein and I understand the consequences, as set out above, should the trial court accept or refuse to accept the plea bargain or plea without an agreed recommendation;

[ ] (6) I understand that before sentence may be imposed, the Court must order preparation of a Presentence Investigation Report by the probation officer pursuant to Article 42.12, Sec. 9; V.A.C.C.P. I have thoroughly discussed this matter with my attorney and believe that for the Court to compel me to participate in the preparation of such a report would abridge the protection provided me by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and could result in further prejudice to me. Therefore, I hereby in writing respectfully decline to participate in the preparation of a Presentence Investigation Report and request that said report not be made prior to the imposition of sentence herein. I further knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently waive any right which I may have to the preparation of said report either under Article 42.12, Sec. 9, V.A.C.C.P., or under Article 42.09, Sec. 8, V.A.C.C.P.;

[ ] (7) I understand that if the Court grants me Deferred Adjudication under Article 42.12, Sec. 3d(a), V.A.C.C.P., on violation of any condition I may be arrested and detained as provided by law. I further understand that I am entitled to a hearing limited to a determination by the Court of whether to proceed with an adjudication of guilt on the original charge. If the Court determines that I violated a condition of probation, no appeal may be taken from the Court's determination and the Court may-assess my punishment within the full range of punishment for this offense. After adjudication of guilt, all proceedings including the assessment of punishment and my right to appeal continue as if adjudication of guilt had not been deferred;

[ ] (8) I further understand that if I was under 21 years of age at the time I committed the offense of driving while intoxicated, or an offense involving the manufacture, possession, transportation, or use of an alcoholic beverage, or the manufacture, delivery, possession, transportation, or use of a controlled substance, dangerous drug, or simulated controlled substance that my Texas driver's license or my privilege to obtain a Texas driver's license and a driver's license in many other states will be automatically suspended for one (1) year from the date sentence is imposed or suspended in open court and that my driver's license suspension shall remain in effect until I attend and successfully complete an alcohol education program in this state. And, if I am over 21 years of age and I receive a final conviction or a suspended sentence for driving while

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intoxicated, or for violating the Controlled Substances Act, or a drug offense, my Texas driver's license will be suspended, and will remain suspended until I successfully attend and complete a drug or alcohol education program as prescribed by law, report the successful completion to the Court in which I was convicted, and the Texas Department of Public Safety receives notice of the completion. I also understand that I may be eligible to receive a restricted license from the Court during this period of suspension.

 $[\int w]$  (9) I fully understand the consequences of my plea herein, and after having fully consulted with my attorney, request that the trial court accept said plea;

 $[\begin{aligned} & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\$ 

 $[ M_{N} ]$  (12) WAIVER OF INDICTMENT: I am the Defendant in the above felony information. My attorney has explained to me my right to be prosecuted by grand jury indictment, which I hereby waive, and I consent to the filing of the above felony information;

(13a) I have not been previously convicted of a felony offense;

(13b) I have been convicted of a felony offense.

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[W] Joined by my counsel, I state that I understand the foregoing admonishments and I am aware of the consequences of myoplea. I am mentally competent to stand trial and my plea is freely and voluntarily made. If my counsel was appointed, I waive and give up any time provided me by law to prepare for trial. I am totally satisfied with the representation provided by my counsel and I received effective and competent representation. Under Art. 1.14, V.A.C.C.P., I give up all rights given to me by law, whether of form, substance or procedure. Joined by my counsel, I waive and give up my right to a jury in this case and my right to require the appearance, confrontation, and cross-examination of the witnesses. I consent to oral and written stipulations of evidence in this case. I have read the indictment and I committed each and every element alleged. I waive and give up my right of confidentiality to the pre-sentence report filed in the case and agree that the report may be publicly filed. Under oath, I swear that the foregoing and all the testimony I give in this case/jis true.

the Public: 7	Defendant 7-7-16
to sworn and subscribed e	BEFORE ME THIS DAY OF $\underline{JUL 0 7 2016}$ , 20
Distribution of the second sec	Harris County Deputy District Clerk
Attorney for State	F nieł R 2016 0.7 2016
Attorney for the Defendant Governmental	JUL 07 2010 D BM
cial Gov	Th Presiding Judge, 185 <sup>th</sup> District Court   B. Harris County, Texas
For Offi	

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THE STATE OF TEXAS		D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2085378
VS. IKECHUKWU NWEZE	001	CJIS TRACKING NO.: 9170062854-A001
8303 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY #900	SPN: DOB: <b>BM 08/08/1952</b>	BY: PW DA NO: 001759318 AGENCY:DPS O/R NO: X2B2130132
HOUSTON, TX	DATE PREPARED: 1/20/2015	ARREST DATE: 07/29/14
NCIC CODE: 2699 16	FEL;E. AI	IER FELONY; CO-DEFS: J. MATURELL REYES-3 RIAS GURRIA-2 FEL; P. OSUAGWU-2 FEL; E. I-2 FEL; D. AUSMUS-2 FEL
FELONY CHARGE: INSURANCE FRAU	D	
CAUSE NO: 1436421 HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO	. 176	BAIL: \$112,000.00
FIRST SETTING DATE:	. 170	PRIOR CAUSE NO:
	KNOWLEDGMENT OF COM	
	ODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEE	
Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 3 under Texas Code of Criminal Procedure A affirmatively and voluntarily declare that I h Article 39.14 (a) Defendant	9.14 (a). My attorney has fully a	In the above numbered cause for further discovery pursuant to nd completely expressed to me my right to request discovery that right. I am Satisfied with the State's compliance and I overy of items pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Siris DanielTime: Siris DanielTime: Siris DanielTime: Siris DanielTime: Siris DanielTime:
Sworn to and Subscribed before me on		- Count
Page 7 of 1	42	Harris County, Texas
ge -7	- / · ·	
Ъа	HARRIS COUNTY DE	PUTY DISTRICT CLERK
have fully discussed his right to discovery unc and the consequences of executing this docum his instruction I also withdraw any pending 3514(a). Defense Attorney (print) This document was executed by the defendar approved the above acknowledgment along w to withdraw any request he may have made fo freely and voluntarily. I find that the defend Procedure Article 39.14 (a) and the effects of t	der Texas Code of Criminal Procedu ent. It is my opinion that he is com or additional discovery requests ( Signa nt, his attorney, and then filed with ith the defendant's plea of guilty or r further discovery pursuant to Texa lant's attorney adequately informed this acknowledgment.	ated by him freely, knowingly, and voluntarily. My client and I are Article 39.14 (a), and I believe that he understands this right petent to make this acknowledgment, and along with him and at made pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article ture of Defense Attorney a the papers of the case. The defendant came before me and I no contest. It appears that the defendant is mentally competent as Code of Criminal Procedure Article 39.14 (a), and is doing so d him of his right to discovery under Texas Code of Criminal DUTY TO DISCLOSE TO THE DEFENDANT ANY
EXCULPATORY, IMPEACHMENT OR M	IITIGATING INFORMATION IN	THE POSSESSION, CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF THE R WOULD TEND TO REDUCE THE PUNISHMENT FOR
The Court hereby ORDERS the District Clerk	of Harris County, Texas to file this	s document in the Court's record in this cause.
For Official Governm	Ø.	- Po
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THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS.
IKECHUKWU NWEZE
8303 SOUTHWEST FREEWAY #90
HOUSTON, TX

SPN: DOB: BM 08/08/1952 DATE PREPARED: 1/20/2015 D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2085378 CJIS TRACKING NO.: 9170062854-A001

> BY: PW DA NO: 001759318 AGENCY:DPS O/R NO: X2B2130132 ARREST DATE: 07/29/14

NCIC CODE: 2699 16

RELATED CASES: ONE OTHER FELONY; CO-DEFS: J. MATURELL REYES-3 FEL;E. ARIAS GURRIA-2 FEL; P. OSUAGWU-2 FEL; E. UYAMADU-2 FEL; D. AUSMUS-2 FEL

FELONY CHARGE: INSURANCE FRAUD CAUSE NO: 1436421 HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 176 FIRST SETTING DATE:

BAIL: \$112,000.00 PRIOR CAUSE NO:

#### TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE 39.14 JOINT LIST OF REQUESTED AND RELEASED DISCOVERY

COMES NOW, the State of Texas by and through the undersigned assistant district attorney and the undersigned attorney for the above named defendant and would jointly show the Court the following:

Pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 39.14(j) this document and the attached pages encompass the discoverable documents and evidence requested by the defendant and released by the State. Additionally, the below signed Assistant District Attorney declares that he/she permitted inspection of the entire Harris County District Attorney's Office file for this cause with the exception of items privileged by law or designated as work product of the District Attorney or her investigators. The signatures included on this document represent a declaration of release and receipt on the dates and in the forms therein related. The parties also incorporate by reference all notices on file in the Clerk's Record under this cause number provided in compliance with the requirements of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and the Texas Penal Code. Based on the signatures provided in this document and the documents incorporated by reference, the below signed Assistant District Attorney and defense counsel do hereby acknowledge that all the designated items thereby referenced were released pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 39.14, and that the State has produced all the discoverable items requested by the defense as of the entry of the plea or commencement of trial. This document and the attached log are the acknowledgment required by article 39.14(j), and act as a written record of the documents, items, and information requested by and provided to the defendant in relation to this cause number, as is hereby witnessed to by our signatures as counsel for the parties.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY	DEFENSE ATTORNEY	
HARRISCOUNTY, TRAS	CANA.	
signature	signature	
Frisc F. MCC well	Andrew McGes	,
printed name	printed name	
2 <u>#01304</u> bar number	<u>3612415</u> bar number	0.0
		Y92
Not 1	LICT OF DELECTS DISCOUTSN ODDER	
	LIST OF RELEASED DISCOVERY ORDER and the attorney for the Defendant in the above Ca	up a proported to the Court this Tayas Code
	of Requested and Released Discovery. The Court he	
Conty Texas to file the entirety of this Joint	List of Requested and Released Discovery. The Court her	b pages in the Court's record in this
Calce	List of Requested and Released Discovery tolating	pages in the court's record in this
Signed this day of	, 20	
Official Governmenta	d.Br	
	JUDGE PRESIDING	
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5 D <sup>'</sup> A. LOG NUMBER: 2085378		menter of the state of the stat
D.A. LOG NUMBER: 2085378	Page L of 2	DEFENDANT: IKECHUKWU NWEZE

#### JOINT LIST OF REQUESTED AND RELEASED DISCOVERY (Cont'd)

The defendant requests **NO ITEMS OR REPORTS** beyond its inspection of the contents of the Harris County District Attorney's Office file which excludes review of items privileged by law or designated as work product:

Signature Defense Counsel	Prir		
		·	

#### **OFFENSE REPORT(s)**

i.

The Defendant hereby requests that the State produce and permit the inspection (I), the electronic duplication (E), copying (C), and/or photographing of the following offense reports (describe with specificity):

Agency DPS	OR NO .: X2 BR BOB2	Release Dt: 4128/16	_Form:(C,E,I,P):
Agency DRS	OR NO .: Villeo from	Release Dr: 42816	_Form:(C,E,I,P):
	sar		
Agency	OR No.:	_ Release Dt:	_ Form:(C,E,I, P):
	(Add additional pages w	hen requesting more than three off	Tense reports)

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS REQUESTED:

The Defendant hereby requests that the State produce, permit inspection (I), the electronic duplication (E), provide copies of (C), and/or allow photographing (P) of the following designated <u>ITEM(s)</u> that constitute or contain evidence material to any matter involved in this action that are in the possession, custody, or control of the State or any person under contract with the State (describe with specificity):

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1. Insuran	(. Claim Fll	Re	lease Dt: 612114	Form:(C,E,I, P):	
2 = State B	ar Disciplinary Do	1	1, 1	- Form:(C,E,I, P):	
		Re	lease Dt:	_Form:(C,E,I, P):	
4. <u>1</u>		Re	lease Dt:	_Form:(C,E,I, P):	
35504	(Add additional pa	ges when requesting mor	e than four items)		
Do Not Disseminate to the Public: 71355041 - Page 9		Respectfully requested Printed nameA State Bar of Texas N Email addressA Date of Request:	It Dee ndrew h 0:: 13612 ndr Gu	(defense counsel) <u>NCGee</u> <u>415</u> <u>ICgutz O</u> aol. con	7
	of the State and defendant hereby ac the defendant pursuant to Article 39.				ted
Print name (logibly):	Jesse MCC Long Assistant District Attorney	Defense Attorney	Indrew U	1º Gee	
DA. LOG NUMBER: 2085	<b>137</b> 8	Page 2 of 2	a	EFENDANT: <b>IKECHUKWU NWEZE</b>	Ċ
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Cause No.	1436421

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Defendant

IN THE S DISTRICT COURT

## OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

### ADVICE OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO APPEAL

#### The Court, pursuant to Tex. R. App. P. 25.2, advises the Defendant as follows:

- 1. Texas law gives a defendant convicted of a crime the right to appeal his conviction.
- 2. If you **pleaded guilty** or **no contest** and accepted the punishment recommended by the prosecutor, however, you **cannot** appeal your conviction unless the Court gives you permission. If you **waived** or gave up your right to appeal, you **cannot** appeal your conviction.
- 3. If you did not plead guilty, you may have the right to appeal. If you want to appeal, you must give notice of appeal in writing to this Court's clerk within 30 days.
- If an attorney represents you in the court of appeals, your attorney must mail a copy of the court of appeals' judgment and opinion to your last known address. You must tell your attorney in writing of any change in your address.
- 5. If you are not satisfied with your appeal's result, you can ask the Court of Criminal Appeals to review your case by filing a petition for discretionary review in the Court of Criminal Appeals within 30 days of the issuance of the opinion by the court of appeals. If you fail to inform your attorney of any change in your address, you may lose the opportunity to seek discretionary review.

#### The Defendant declares the following to the Court (choose one):

- 1. I read and write English. I have read and I understand this document. (Defendant initial here if true); or
- 2. □ I speak English. \_\_\_\_\_\_ (name reader) read this document to me. I understand its contents. \_\_\_\_\_\_ (Defendant initial here if true); or
- 3. I do not speak English. \_\_\_\_\_ (name translator) translated this document for me. I understand its contents. \_\_\_\_\_(Defendant initial here if true).

JUL 0 7 2016

Defendant's signature Sworn to and subscribed before me on

Harris County Deputy District Clerk

Chris Daniel District Clerk JUL 0 7 2016 Time: Harris County, Texas By

Doputy

 $\mathbb{R}$ 

PRESIDING JUDGE

Harris County, Texas

Revised 5/2/12



Cause No. 143642

IN THE



THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY	CRIMINAL	COURT	АТ	LAW	No.
COULT	A REAL AND A	COUNT	<b>~~ 1</b>	8.474.11	1.0

**DISTRICT COURT** 

Defendant

### HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

# **TRIAL COURT'S CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S RIGHT OF APPEAL\***

I, judge of the trial court, certify this criminal case:

is not a plea-bargain case, and the defendant has the right of appeal. [or]

- is a plea-bargain case, but matters were raised by written motion filed and ruled on before trial, and not withdrawn or waived, and the defendant has the right of appeal. [or]
- is a plea-bargain case, but the trial court has given permission to appeal, and the defendant has the right of appeal. [or]
- is a plea-bargain case, and the defendant has NO right of appeal. [or]
- the defendant has waived the right of appeal.

Judge

JUL 0 7 2016 Date Signed

71355041 - Page 11 of 1 I have received a copy of this certification. I have also been informed of my rights concerning any appeal of this criminal case, including any right to file a pro se petition for discretionary review pursuant to Rule 68 of the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure. I have been admonished that my attorney must mail a copy of the court of appeals's judgment and opinion to my last known address and that I have only 30 days in which to file a pro se petition for discretionary review in the Court of Criminal Appeals. TEX. R. APP. P. 68.2 I acknowledge that, if I wish to appeal this case and if I am entitled to do so, it is my duty to inform my appellate attorney, by written the Publ communication, of any change in the address at which I am currently living or any change in my current prison unit. I understand that, because of appellate deadlines, if I fail to timely inform my appellate attorney of any  $\frac{1}{2}$  change in my address I may lose the opportunity to file a *pro se* petition for discretionary review.

X Dubuz	Cluch
Defendant FILED	Defendant's Counsel Andrew McGer
Mailing Address:	State Bar of Texas ID number: 13612415
Telephone number: <u>JUI 0 7 2016</u>	Mailing Address: <u>4720 Dowling St.</u> Telephone number: <u>7-223-5400</u>
Fax number (if any): Harris County, Texas	Telephone number: 7-223-5400
Deputy	Fax number (if any): 7-223-5433

For Official Governm \* "A defendant in a criminal case has the right of appeal under these rules. The trial court shall enter a certification of the defendant's right to appeal in every case in which it enters a judgment of guilt or other appealable order. In a plea bargain case-that is, a case in which a defendant's plea was guilty or nolo contendere and the punishment did not exceed the punishment recommended by the prosecutor and agreed to by the defendant - a defendant may appeal only: (A) those matters that were raised by a written motion filed and ruled on before trial, or (B) after getting the trial court's permission to appeal." TEXAS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 25.2(a)(2).



I, Chris Daniel, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date. Witness my official hand and seal of office this <u>September 28, 2016</u>

Certified Document Number:

71355041 Total Pages: 11

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Chris Daniel, DISTRICT CLERK HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

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# CASE NO. 143642101010

INCIDENT NO./TRN: 9170062854A001

THE STATE OF TEXAS	§	IN THE 185TH DISTRICT
	§	
v.	§	COURT
	§	
NWEZE, IKECHUKWU	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
•	§	
STATE ID No.: TX50544409	§	

# **ORDER OF DEFERRED ADJUDICATION**

Judge Presiding:	HON. SUS.	AN BROWN	Date	Order Entered:	07/28/2016
Attorney for State:	JESSE M	CCLURE	Attor	ney for Defendant:	MCGEE, ANDREW G.
Offense:		<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>			
<b>INSURANCE FF</b>	RAUD \$20,00	0-100,00			
Charging Instrument:			Statute	for Offense:	
INDICTMENT			N/A		
Date of Offense:					· ·
04/01/2014					Pladiana Diada Mana
Degree of Offense:	EL ONIV			Offense:	Findings on Deadly Weapon: N/A
<b>3RD DEGREE F</b> Terms of Plea Bargain			GUIL	L Y	IN/A
4 YEARS DADJ	<u>L.</u>				
4 I LAKS DADJ					
Plea to 1 <sup>st</sup> Enhanceme	nt Paragraph:	N/A	Plea to 2 <sup>nd</sup> E	nhancement/Habitua	l Paragraph: N/A
Findings on 1 <sup>st</sup> Enhan	eement		Findings on	2nd Enhancement/Ha	
Paragraph:		N/A	Paragraph:		N/A
,,,			PLACED ON COM COMMUNITY SUI		
Fine:		Court Costs:	Restitution:	Restitution Pavab	le to:
s N/A		As Assessed	\$ N/A	<b>VICTIM</b> (see	below) 🔲 AGENCY/AGENT (see below)
Sex Offender Registr	ation Requirem	ents do not apply t	o the Defendant. TEN	CODE CRIM. PROC.	chapter 62
The age of the victim	at the time of the	offense was N/A	•		
Time Credited: N/.	A DAYS NO	TES: N/A			
<u> </u>	VI pertinent inform	ilion, names and assessm	ents indicated above are in	corporated into the lang	uage of the judgment below by reference,
This cause	was called for th	ial in Harris Count	y, Texas. The State ap	peared by her Distr	ict Attorney as named above.
Counsel /	Waiver of Cour	sel (select one)			
Defendant appe	ared in person w	ith Counsel			
<b></b>			wrived the right to rea	acastation be asin	sel in writing in open court.
admonished the Defe	endant as require	d by law. It appeare	d to the Court that Def	endant was mentally	rered a plea as indicated above. The Court competent to stand trial, made the plea freely nered it of record. Having heard the evidence
			Exhibit	This instrum	R'S MEMORANDUM ent is of poor quality time of imaging

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submitted, the Court FINDS such evidence substantiates Defendant's guilt. The Court FINDS that, in this cause, it is in the best interest of society and Defendant to defer proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and to place Defendant on community supervision.

The Court FINDs the Presentence Investigation, if so ordered, was done according to the applicable provisions of TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art. 42.12 \$ 9.

The Court ORDERS that Defendant is given credit noted above for the time spent incarcerated. The Court ORDERS Defendant to pay all fines, court costs, and restitution as indicated above.

The Court ORDERS that no judgment shall be entered at this time. The Court further ORDERS that Defendant be placed on community supervision for the adjudged period so long as Defendant abides by and does not violate the terms and conditions of community supervision. See TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. art, 42.12 § 5(a).

The Court ORDERS that Defendant is given credit noted above on this sentence for the time spent incarcerated. The Court further ORDERS that if the defendant is convicted of two or more offenses in a single criminal action, that each cost or fee amount must be assessed using the highest category of offense. Tex. Code Crim. P. art. 102.073.

#### Furthermore, the following special findings or orders apply:

| Signed and entered on 07/28/2016                                   | X B B<br>SUSAN BROWN<br>JUDGE PRESIDING |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
| Notice Appeal Filed:                                               |                                         |                  |
| Mandate Received:                                                  |                                         |                  |
| Def. Received on at DAM PM                                         |                                         |                  |
| By:, Deputy Sheriff of Harris County                               |                                         |                  |
| Clerk: C CZEPINSKI<br>Case: 143642101010<br>Name: NWEZE, IKECHUKWU |                                         | Right Thumbprint |
| ITN (CAS 20.10): $N/4$ EN/KR139 LCBT: $V$                          | LCBU:                                   |                  |

## CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. IKECHUKWU NWEZE

# IN THE <u>185th</u> DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS CAUSE NUMBER 143642101010

On this the <u>28th</u> day of <u>July</u>, <u>2016</u>, you are granted <u>4 Years</u> community supervision for the felony offense of <u>INSURANCE FRAUD</u> \$ 20,000-100,000 in accordance with section 5 of Article 42.12, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, in the <u>185th</u> District Court of Harris County, Texas, by the Honorable <u>SUSAN BROWN</u> Judge Presiding. It is the order of this Court that you abide by the following Conditions of Community Supervision:

- (1) Commit no offense against the laws of this or any other State or of the United States. You are to report any arrests within 24 hours.
- (2) Not use, possess, or consume any illegal drug or prescription drug not currently prescribed to you by a medical professional. You shall bring all current prescription bottles to your Community Supervision Officer. If new medication is prescribed, you must bring the new prescription bottle by your next scheduled report date.
- (3) Report to the Community Supervision Officer as directed for the remainder of the supervision term unless so ordered differently by the Court.
- (4) Permit a Community Supervision Officer to visit you at your home, place of employment or elsewhere.
- (5) Work at suitable employment and/or attend school full- time. Present either verification of employment or provide a log of all attempts to secure employment to your Community Supervision Officer as directed. You must notify HCCSCD of any change in your employment status by your next scheduled reporting date.
- (6) Abide by the rules and regulations of the Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (hereinafter referred to as HCCSCD).
- (7) Remain within Harris County, Texas or any counties directly touching Harris County, Texas. You may not travel outside these locations unless you receive prior written permission from the Court through your Community Supervision Officer.
- (8) Notify HCCSCD by your next report date of any change in residence.
- (9) Submit a non- diluted, valid, unaltered sample for the purpose of alcohol/drug monitoring at the request of the HCCSCD.
- (10) Submit to a screening and/or assessment through HCCSCD Assessment Unit by 07/28/2016.
- (11) Submit to an evaluation of your educational skill level by 08/28/2016. If it is determined that you have not attained the average skill of students who have completed the sixth grade in public schools in this State, you shall participate in a program that teaches functionally illiterate persons to read. If you are non- English speaking, you will participate in English as a Second Language (ESL) program, if it is determined there is a need in order for you to meet the state mandate beginning upon referral until successfully discharged or released by further order of the Court.
- (12) Support your dependents as required by law. Provide your Community Supervision Officer with a certified copy of all court orders requiring payment of child support.
- (13) Not ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition, or attempt to ship, transport, possess, receive, or purchase a firearm, altered firearm, or ammunition.
- (14) Pay the following fees through HCCSCD. All payments MUST be in the form of a Money Order, Cashier's Check or credit card. Credit card can be used to submit online payments at <u>http://www.go2gov.net/go/hccscd</u>. A \$ 2.00 transaction fee will be charged by HCCSCD to process each payment.
  - 14.1 Pay a Supervision Fee at the rate of \$ 60.00 per month for the duration of your community supervision beginning 08/28/2016 to HCCSCD.
  - 14.2 Pay a \$ 12.50 fee for an Offender Identification Card by 08/28/2016 to HCCSCD.

### CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

#### For: IKECHUKWU NWEZE

- 14.3 Pay a one- time fee of \$ 100.00 to HCCSCD for the purpose of screening and assessment.
- 14.4 Pay a Fine of \$ 0.00 and Court Costs at the rate of \$ 45.00 per month beginning 08/28/2016 to Harris County through HCCSCD. Court grants credit for 0 days served.
  - 14.5 Pay \$ 10.00 per month to cover expenses of drug testing.
- (15) Not use, consume, or possess alcoholic beverages.
- (16) Attend the Education Program Effective Decision Making until successfully completed or as designated by the court.

(17) Client must surrender his Law License by 9/7/2016.

# CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

#### For: IKECHUKWU NWEZE

I understand that under the laws of this State, the Court shall determine the terms and conditions of Community Supervision, and may alter or modify said conditions during the period of Community Supervision. I further understand that failure to abide by these Conditions of Community Supervision may result in the revocation of Community Supervision or an adjudication of guilt.

Community Supervision expires the 27th day of July A.D. 2020

<

IKECHUKWU NWEZE, DERENDANT

July 28, 2016 DATE

Signed this 28th day of July A.D. 2016

| SUSAN BROWN, PRESIDING JUDGE   |       |                       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| DAVID PRESTON, CLOICSO DEFICER |       | July 28, 2016<br>DATE |
| ~                              | SPN:  | 02747708              |
|                                | PLEA: | GUILTY                |

Defendant's Right Thumbprint



I, Chris Daniel, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date. Witness my official hand and seal of office this <u>September 28, 2016</u>

Certified Document Number:

71307059 Total Pages: 5

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Chris Daniel, DISTRICT CLERK HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

#### <u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Judith Gres DeBerry, Petitioner's attorney of record, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

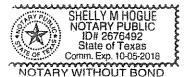
"My name is Judith Gres DeBerry. I am over the age of 18 years, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and state the following:

Based upon information and belief, Ikechukwu Nweze, whose Texas Bar Card Number is 00792725, is licensed as an attorney and counselor at law in the State of Texas. Based upon information and belief, Ikechukwu Nweze, named as Respondent in the Petition for Compulsory Discipline filed with the Board of Disciplinary Appeals is one and the same person as the Ikechukwu Nweze who is the subject of the Order of Deferred Adjudication entered in Cause No. 143642101010, styled *The State of Texas v. Ikechukwu Nweze*, in the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court of Harris County, Texas, wherein Respondent pled guilty to Insurance Fraud \$20,000 - \$100,000 and was placed on community supervision for four (4) years and, as a condition of community supervision, ordered to surrender his law license by September 7, 2016."

FURTHER Affiant saith not.

Judith Gres DeBerry

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the <u>4</u> day of November 2016.



NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

