

## OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION

KEVIN M. McCARTY COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF:

**CASE NUMBER: 86448-06** 

## PACIFIC LIFE & ANNUITY COMPANY

## **CONSENT ORDER**

THIS CAUSE came on for consideration as the result of an agreement between

PACIFIC LIFE & ANNUITY COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "PACIFIC LIFE") and
the OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION (hereinafter referred to as the "OFFICE").

Following a complete review of the entire record, and upon consideration thereof, and being
otherwise fully advised in the premises, the OFFICE hereby finds as follows:

- 1. The OFFICE has jurisdiction over the subject matter of, and parties to, this proceeding.
- 2. PACIFIC LIFE is a foreign life and health insurer authorized to transact insurance business in Florida, and is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the OFFICE, pursuant to the Florida Insurance Code.
- 3. The OFFICE has conducted an investigation of PACIFIC LIFE pursuant to Section 624.318, Florida Statutes. As a result of such investigation, the OFFICE has determined that PACIFIC LIFE charged an unapproved premium for occupational coverage for the Florida small group market and failed to make annual rate certifications or increases since 1998 for individual conversion contracts, in violation of the following sections of Florida law:

- a. Section 627.6699(12)(e), Florida Statutes A small employer carrier may not use any policy, contract, form, or rate under this section, including applications, enrollments forms, policies, contracts, certificates, evidences of coverage, riders, amendments, endorsements, and disclosure forms, until the insurer has filed it with the office and the office has approved it.
- b. Rule 69O-149.037(3)(c)(2), Florida Administrative Code To reflect benefit differences provided by the plan, a carrier may file for approval a rating factor reflecting the additional benefits being provided by the health plan if the small employer does not have workers' compensation insurance.
- c. Section 627.410(6)(a), Florida Statutes An insurer may not deliver or issue for delivery or renew in this state any health insurance policy form until it has filed with the office a copy of every applicable rating manual, rating schedule, change in rating manual, and change in rating schedule; if rating manuals and rating schedules are not applicable, the insurer must file with the office applicable premium rates and any change in applicable premium rates.
- d. Section 627.410(7)(a), Florida Statutes Each insurer subject to the requirements of subsection (6) shall make an annual filing with the office no later than 12 months after its previous filing, demonstrating the reasonableness of benefits in relation to premium rates.
- 4. The OFFICE and PACIFIC LIFE expressly waive a hearing in this matter, as well as the making of findings of fact and conclusions of law by the OFFICE and all further and/or other proceedings to which the parties may be entitled, either by law or by rules of the OFFICE.

  PACIFIC LIFE hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives all rights to challenge or to contest this Order, in any forum now available to it, including the right to any administrative proceeding, circuit or federal court action, or any appeal.

- 5. PACIFIC LIFE agrees that failure to adhere to one or more of the terms and conditions of this Order shall constitute a violation of a lawful order of the OFFICE, and shall subject PACIFIC LIFE to such administrative action as the OFFICE may deem appropriate.
- 6. PACIFIC LIFE agrees that upon the execution of this Consent Order, it shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
- a. **PACIFIC LIFE** shall pay a penalty of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$35,000.00) and administrative costs of Three Thousand Dollars and No/100 (\$3,000.00) on or before the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) day after which this Consent Order is executed.
- b. PACIFIC LIFE shall, within thirty (30) days of execution of this Consent Order, refund all premiums, plus twelve percent (12%) interest per year from the date of each violation, to each small employer who was charged an unapproved rate for occupational coverage.
- c. PACIFIC LIFE shall, within thirty (30) days of execution of this Consent Order, refund or credit to each individual conversion policyholder the overpayment of premiums plus twelve percent (12%) interest per year from the date of the violation with respect to each affected policy. PACIFIC LIFE shall have the discretion to choose whether to issue a refund or credit to each affected policyholder.
- d. PACIFIC LIFE shall, within sixty (60) days of execution of this Consent Order, provide a report, certified by an officer of the Company to be true and correct, confirming that PACIFIC LIFE has provided to each identified small employer group a refund of all premium charged to that employer for occupational coverage plus twelve percent (12%) interest per year from the date of each respective violation. This report will include the policyholder name, policyholder address, policy number, refund amount, and refund date.

e. PACIFIC LIFE shall, within sixty (60) days of execution of this Consent Order, provide a report, certified by an officer of the Company to be true and correct, confirming that PACIFIC LIFE has provided to each identified individual conversion policyholder a refund or credit of the premium overpayment plus twelve percent (12%) interest per year from the date of each respective violation. This report will include the policyholder name, policyholder address, policy number, refund/credit amount, and refund/credit date.

f. PACIFIC LIFE is hereby placed on notice of the requirements of the abovereferenced sections of law and agrees that any future violations of these sections or the statutes
named therein by PACIFIC LIFE may be deemed willful, subjecting PACIFIC LIFE to the
appropriate penalties associated therewith.

7. Except as noted above, each party to this action shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees.

8. THEREFORE, the agreement between **PACIFIC LIFE** and the **OFFICE**, the terms and conditions of which are set forth above, is approved.

FURTHER, all terms and conditions above are hereby ORDERED.

DONE AND ORDERED this

day of Leptenber, 2006

Kevin M. McCarty

Commissioner

Office of Insurance Regulation

By execution hereof, PACIFIC LIFE & ANNUITY COMPANY consents to entry of this Consent Order, agrees without reservation to all of the above terms and conditions, and shall be bound by all provisions herein. The undersigned represents, pursuant to Section 624.310, Florida Statutes, that he/she has the authority to bind PACIFIC LIFE & ANNUITY COMPANY to the terms and conditions of this Consent Order.

PACIFIC LIFE & ANNUITY COMPANY
By: Man Racher
Sharon Pacheco
Print or Type Name
Title: VP, Chief Compliance Officer
Date: August 28, 2006
dged before me this 28thday of August 2006,
as Officer
(type of authority e.g. officer, trustee, attorney-in-fact)
Fran Sto
(Signature of the Notary)
Francis Anesi
(Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary)
d Identification
INOTARIAL SEAL

My Commission Expires: September 20, 2009



## COPIES FURNISHED TO:

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