

IOWA INSURANCE DIVISION NEWS & INFORMATION

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Iowa Insurance Division

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Iowa Insurance Division Revokes Agent's License

Hundreds of Iowans may have been affected

On Friday, September 28, the Iowa Insurance Division summarily revoked the insurance license of Jack L. Straw, currently of Cedar Rapids. Straw, whose company was known as Benefit Services Corporation with offices in Waterloo and Clear Lake, is alleged to have committed several violations of insurance law. The likelihood that more harm could be done by this agent led the Division to take the emergency measure of a summary revocation, although Straw has the right to request a hearing within 30 days.

The Division alleges that Straw's violations included some which are serious enough that the commissioner invoked her authority to summarily revoke his license to sell insurance for the immediate protection of consumers who might otherwise have been victimized. The allegations include that he: materially altered insurance policies in order to mislead clients, misrepresented the terms of policies to his clients, forged the signatures of clients on applications, made unauthorized withdrawals from clients' annuity policies, converted client funds to his personal use, issued multiple reimbursement checks to clients that were returned to clients for insufficient funds, made verbal threats to clients, and made offers for the sale of securities and received money for the sale of securities while never having been licensed for such transactions.

It is known that he was appointed to sell the products of over twenty companies and that he had clients with more than one hundred annuity policies with at least one of those companies. Therefore, it is possible that several hundreds of Iowa clients may have been harmed. Known addresses of his clients are in the areas around such cities as Dunkerton, Mason City, Clear Lake, Cedar Rapids and Waterloo.

The Division encourages any individuals who have conducted insurance business or engaged in other transactions with Jack L. Straw or Benefit Services Corporation to contact their insurance companies directly to verify the status of their policies. Iowans with questions or concerns about their dealings with this agent and his company are encouraged to call the Division using its toll-free number, 1-877-955-1212. The Division

can answer any questions the public may have about the agent and the insurance companies whose policies he sold.

About the Iowa Insurance Division

The Iowa Insurance Division (IID) has general control, supervision and direction over all insurance and securities business transacted in the state, and enforces Iowa's laws and regulations. The IID investigates consumer complaints and prosecutes companies, agents and brokers engaging in unfair trade practices. Consumers with insurance or securities-related questions or complaints may contact the IID toll free at 877-955-1212 or visit the division on the web at www.iid.state.ia.us.

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