

522B.11 License denial, nonrenewal, or revocation — limitation on duties and responsibilities of insurance producers.

1. The commissioner may place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew an insurance producer's license or may levy a civil penalty as provided in [section 522B.17](#) for any one or more of the following causes:

a. Providing incorrect, misleading, incomplete, or materially untrue information in the license application.

b. Violating any insurance laws, or violating any regulation, subpoena, or order of the commissioner or of a commissioner of another state.

c. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license through misrepresentation or fraud.

d. Improperly withholding, misappropriating, or converting any moneys or properties received in the course of doing insurance business.

e. Intentionally misrepresenting the terms of an actual or proposed insurance contract or application for insurance.

f. Having been convicted of a felony.

g. Having admitted or been found to have committed any unfair insurance trade practice or fraud.

h. Using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in the conduct of business in this state or elsewhere.

i. Having an insurance producer license, or its equivalent, denied, suspended, or revoked in any other state, province, district, or territory.

j. Forging another's name to an application for insurance or to any document related to an insurance transaction.

k. Improperly using notes or any other reference material to complete an examination for an insurance license.

l. Knowingly accepting insurance business from an individual who is not licensed.

m. Failing to comply with an administrative or court order imposing a child support obligation.

n. Failing to comply with an administrative or court order related to repayment of loans to the college student aid commission.

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

p. Failing or refusing to cooperate in an investigation by the commissioner.

q. Is the subject of an order of the securities administrator of this state or any other state, province, district, or territory, denying, suspending, revoking, or otherwise taking action against a registration as a broker-dealer, agent, investment adviser, or investment adviser representative.

r. Using an insurance producer's license for the principal purpose of procuring, receiving, or forwarding applications for insurance of any kind, or placing, or effecting such insurance directly or indirectly upon or in connection with the property of the licensee or the property of a relative, employer, or employee of the licensee, or upon or in connection with property for which the licensee or a relative, employer, or employee of the licensee is an agent, custodian, vendor, bailee, trustee, or payee.

2. If the commissioner does not renew a license or denies an application for a license, the commissioner shall notify the applicant or licensee and advise, in writing, the licensee or applicant of the reason for the nonrenewal of the license or denial of the application for a license. The licensee or applicant may request a hearing on the nonrenewal or denial. A hearing shall be conducted according to [section 507B.6](#).

3. The license of a business entity may be suspended, revoked, or refused if the commissioner finds, after hearing, that an individual licensee's violation was known or should have been known by a partner, officer, or manager acting on behalf of the business entity and the violation was not reported to the commissioner and corrective action was not taken.

4. In addition to, or in lieu of, any applicable denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, a person, after hearing, may be subject to a civil penalty as provided in [section 522B.17](#).

5. The commissioner may conduct an investigation of any suspected violation of [this chapter](#) pursuant to [section 507B.6](#) and may enforce the provisions and impose any penalty or remedy authorized by [this chapter](#) and [chapter 507B](#) against any person who is under investigation for, or charged with, a violation of either chapter even if the person's license has been surrendered or has lapsed by operation of law.

6. *a.* In order to assure a free flow of information for accomplishing the purposes of [this section](#), all complaint files, investigation files, other investigation reports, and other investigative information in the possession of the commissioner or the commissioner's employees or agents that relates to licensee discipline are privileged and confidential, and are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to a person other than the licensee, and are not admissible in evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding other than the proceeding involving licensee discipline. A final written decision of the commissioner in a disciplinary proceeding is a public record.

b. Investigative information in the possession of the commissioner or the commissioner's employees or agents that relates to licensee discipline may be disclosed, in the commissioner's discretion, to appropriate licensing authorities within this state, the appropriate licensing authority in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory or country in which the licensee is licensed or has applied for a license.

c. If the investigative information in the possession of the commissioner or the commissioner's employees or agents indicates a crime has been committed, the information shall be reported to the proper law enforcement agency.

d. Pursuant to the provisions of [section 17A.19, subsection 6](#), upon an appeal by the licensee, the commissioner shall transmit the entire record of the contested case to the reviewing court.

e. Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 17A.19, subsection 6](#), if a waiver of privilege has been involuntary and evidence has been received at a disciplinary hearing, the court shall issue an order to withhold the identity of the individual whose privilege was waived.

7. *a.* Unless an insurance producer holds oneself out as an insurance specialist, consultant, or counselor and receives compensation for consultation and advice apart from commissions paid by an insurer, the duties and responsibilities of an insurance producer are limited to those duties and responsibilities set forth in *Sandbulte v. Farm Bureau Mut. Ins. Co.*, 343 N.W.2d 457 (Iowa 1984).

b. The general assembly declares that the holding of *Langwith v. Am. Nat'l Gen. Ins. Co.*, 793 N.W. 2d 215 (Iowa 2010) is abrogated to the extent that it overrules *Sandbulte* and imposes higher or greater duties and responsibilities on insurance producers than those set forth in *Sandbulte*.

c. Notwithstanding the holding in *Pitts v. Farm Bureau Life Ins. Co.*, 818 N.W.2d 91 (Iowa 2012), an insurance producer, while acting within the scope and course of the license provided for by [this chapter](#), is not in the business of supplying information to others unless the requirements of paragraph "a" relating to expanded duties and responsibilities are met.

d. Neither an insurance producer nor an insurer has a duty to change the beneficiary of an insurance policy or contract unless clear written evidence of the policy owner's intent to change a beneficiary of the policy or contract is presented to the insurance producer or insurer in the manner required by the policy or contract prior to the payment of any insurance benefits under the policy or contract. Such evidence shall be provided in the same manner as a claim for benefits under the policy or contract.

e. An insurance producer owes any duties and responsibilities referred to in [this subsection](#) only to the policy owner, a person in privity of contract with the insurance producer, and the principal in an agency relationship with the insurance producer. If a person to whom an insurance producer owes duties and responsibilities is deceased or incapacitated, a direct and specifically identified beneficiary referenced in a written instrument required by the insurer and delivered to the insurance producer prior to the death or incapacity may enforce the insurance producer's duties and responsibilities. An insurance producer does not owe any duty or responsibility to a person who was a direct and

specifically identified beneficiary if the policy owner changes the beneficiary in the manner required by the policy or contract to remove the person as a beneficiary.

2001 Acts, ch 16, §25, 37; 2004 Acts, ch 1110, §60 – 62; 2008 Acts, ch 1123, §42; 2011 Acts, ch 70, §45; 2014 Acts, ch 1108, §2; 2015 Acts, ch 108, §8; 2017 Acts, ch 54, §62

Referred to in §505.8, 522B.5, 522B.5A, 522B.6, 522B.7, 522B.14, 522B.16A