## BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE INSURANCE DIVISION, Petitioner,	)	
	)	
VS.	) <b>No.: 03-54</b>	
	) 12.01-043340J	
CASUALTY RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE,	)	
Respondent.	)	

## AGREED ORDER

**WHEREAS**, Petitioner, the Tennessee Insurance Division, and the Respondent, Casualty Reciprocal Exchange, hereby stipulate and agree, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance (hereinafter referred to as the "Commissioner") as follows:

## **GENERAL STIPULATIONS**

1. It is expressly understood that this Agreed Order is subject to the Commissioner's acceptance and has no force and effect until such acceptance is evidenced by the entry of the Commissioner.

2. The Commissioner has determined that the resolution set forth in this Agreed Order is fair and reasonable, and in the best public interest.

3. This Agreed Order is executed by the Respondent for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this cause. Furthermore, should this Agreed Order not be accepted by the Commissioner, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Agreed Order by the Commissioner shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Commissioner from further participation or resolution of these proceedings. 4. Respondent fully understands that this Agreed Order will in no way preclude additional proceedings by the Commissioner against the Respondent for acts or omissions not specifically addressed in this Agreed Order or for facts and/or omissions that do not arise from the facts or transactions herein addressed.

5. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps, and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review of or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of the Agreed Order, the stipulations and imposition of discipline contained herein, and the consideration and entry of said Agreed Order by the Commissioner.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

6. Casualty Reciprocal Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent") is an insurance company domiciled in the State of Missouri.

7. The annual financial statement filed by the Respondent with the Division reported that as of December 31, 2002, the Respondent possessed bona fide surplus funds in the amount of negative Nine Million Seven Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$(9,783,289.00)).

8. Respondent is required by Tennessee Law to possess and maintain bona fide surplus funds in the amounts of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

9. Tenn. Code Ann.  $\Rightarrow$  56-1-416 provides that the Commissioner shall revoke or suspend all certificates of authority granted to an insurance company if the Commissioner is of the opinion, upon examination or other evidence, that a foreign insurance company is in an unsound condition or has failed to comply with the law, and upon such a finding, no new business shall be done by the company or its agents under suspension or revocation while such default or disability continues, nor until its authority to do business is restored by the Commissioner.

10. Tenn. Code Ann.  $\Rightarrow$  56-2-115 states, in pertinent part, that all insurance companies doing business in this state shall possess and maintain bona fide surplus funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

11. By virtue of the fact that the Respondent is in violation of Tenn. Code Ann.  $\Rightarrow$  56-2-115, the Respondent is both in violation of the law and in an unsound financial condition, and, thus, subject to sanctions under Tenn. Code Ann.  $\Rightarrow$  56-1-416.

12. Respondent admits to the Findings of Fact, above, and further admits that such findings subject it to sanctions pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann.  $\Rightarrow$  56-1-416. Respondent further admits that the Conclusions of Law, above, are fair and reasonable. In order to avoid any further expenses or costs associated with litigating this matter, Respondent, hereby desires to enter into this Agreed Order.

## ORDER

3

**NOW THEREFORE**, on the basis of the foregoing, and the wavier of the Respondent, of its rights to a hearing and appeal under Tennessee Insurance Law and Tennessee's Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann.  $\ni$  4-5-101, *et seq.*, and the admission by Respondent of the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner finds that the Respondent has agreed to the entry of this order and that this Order is appropriate, and in the public interest.

**IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. **>** 56-1-416 of the Tennessee Insurance Law, that:

1. Respondent's Certificate of Authority is hereby suspended for a period of two (2) years. Should the Commissioner determine that the Respondent's financial condition is no longer unsound, she may at any time remove the suspension of the Respondent's certificate of authority. The Commissioner, in her sole discretion, may also extend the suspension period should she find such extension to be in the public interest. However, in the event the Respondent's certificate of authority is not reinstated within two (2) years from the date of this Order, the Respondent's certificate or the Division.

2. While the Respondent's certificate of authority is either suspended or revoked, Respondent shall cease writing new business in the State of Tennessee, and shall only renew those policies that the law may require. Respondent shall, however, at all such times continue to file its annual statement, pay fees, licenses and taxes as required and applicable, and service existing policyholders and adjust losses thereunder.

This Agreed Order is in the public interest and in the best interests of the parties, and

This Agreed Order is in the public interest and in the best interests of the parties, and represents a compromise and settlement of the controversy between the parties and is for settlement purposes only. By the signature affixed below, Casualty Reciprocal Exchange affirmatively states that it has freely agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order, that it has been advised that it may consult legal counsel in this matter, and has had the opportunity to consult with legal counsel should it had desired to do so, that it waives its right to a hearing on the matters underlying this Agreed Order and to a review of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, and that no threats or promises of any kind have been made by the Commissioner, the Division, or any agent or representative thereof. The parties, by signing this Agreed Order, affirmatively state their agreement to be bound by the terms of this Agreed Order and aver that no promises or offers relating to the circumstances described herein, other than the terms of settlement set forth in this Agreed Order, are binding upon them.

Nothing in this Agreed Order should be construed to limit the authority of the Insurance Division or the Commissioner to take further action against the Respondent should such action, in the opinion of the Insurance Division or the Commissioner, be necessary.

#### SO ORDERED.

ENTERED this the 22nd day of October . 2003.

Paula A. Flowers, Commissioner Department of Commerce and Insurance

# APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

) Suth Daphne D. Smith

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Insurance Department of Commerce and Insurance 500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37247-0565

John F. Morris (BPR# 019144) Department of Commerce and Insurance Davy Crockett Tower, Fifth Floor 500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243 615 741 2199

Casualty Reciprocal Exchange

Seult

By: Title: Director, Missone: Department of Insurance, as Receiver of Casualty Recipional Exclusive