

1 AN ACT relating to property and casualty insurance.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 304.47-010 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in this subtitle~~[-47 of this chapter]~~, unless the context requires otherwise:

5 (1) **"Criminal syndicate" means five (5) or more persons collaborating to promote or**
6 **engage in any fraudulent insurance act, as set forth in subsection (1) of Section 2**
7 **of this Act, on a continuing basis;**

8 (2) **"Division" means the Division of Insurance Fraud Investigation of the Kentucky**
9 **Department of Insurance, its employees, or authorized representatives;**

10 (3) **"Insurance policy" or "policy" means any individual or group policy, including**
11 **those defined by KRS Chapter 342, certificate, or contract of an insurer,**
12 **including reinsurance affecting the rights of any Kentucky resident or bearing a**
13 **reasonable relation to Kentucky regardless of whether delivered or issued for**
14 **delivery in Kentucky;**

15 (4) **"Insured" means any person who is a named insured or beneficiary under an**
16 **insurance policy or a person who is not a named insured or beneficiary under an**
17 **insurance policy due to the fraudulent action of another, but who in good faith**
18 **believes himself or herself to be an insured or beneficiary;**

19 (5) "Insurer" means any person, entity, organization, or reinsurer, including fraternal
20 benefit societies as defined in Subtitle 29 of this chapter, nonprofit hospital,
21 medical-surgical, dental, and health service corporation as defined in Subtitle 32 of
22 this chapter, health maintenance organization as defined in Subtitle 38 of this
23 chapter, prepaid dental plan organization as defined in Subtitle 43 of this chapter, or
24 unauthorized insurer as defined in Subtitle 11 of this chapter, subject to regulation
25 by or registration with the Department of Insurance under this chapter, and any
26 "carrier," "self-insurer," or "insurance carrier" as defined by KRS Chapter 342;

27 ~~((2) "Insurance policy" or "policy" means any individual or group policy, including~~

1 ~~those defined by KRS Chapter 342, certificate, or contract of an insurer as defined~~
2 ~~in subsection (1) of this section including reinsurance affecting the rights of any~~
3 ~~Kentucky resident or bearing a reasonable relation to Kentucky regardless of~~
4 ~~whether delivered or issued for delivery in Kentucky;~~

5 ~~(3) "Insured" means any person who is a named insured or beneficiary under a policy~~
6 ~~as defined in subsection (2) of this section or a person who is not a named insured~~
7 ~~or beneficiary under a policy due to the fraudulent action of another, but who in~~
8 ~~good faith believes himself or herself to be an insured or beneficiary;~~

9 ~~(6) [(4)]~~ "Law enforcement agency" means any federal, state, county, or consolidated
10 police or law enforcement department and any prosecuting official of the federal,
11 state, county, local, or consolidated government; **and**

12 ~~(7) [(5)]~~ "Statement" includes~~[,] but is not limited to[,]~~ any notice, statement, proof of
13 loss, bill of lading, invoice, account, estimate of property **or casualty** damages, **bid**
14 **or proposal relating to property or casualty damages,** bill for services, diagnosis,
15 prescription, hospital or physician record or report, X-ray, test result, or other
16 evidence of loss, injury, or expense **that is**~~[-. A statement may be]~~ in any form,
17 including oral, written, and electronic transmissions;

18 ~~(6) "Division" means the Division of Insurance Fraud Investigation of the Kentucky~~
19 ~~Department of Insurance, its employees, or authorized representatives; and~~

20 ~~(7) "Criminal syndicate" means five (5) or more persons collaborating to promote or~~
21 ~~engage in any fraudulent insurance act, as set forth in KRS 304.47-020(1), on a~~
22 ~~continuing basis].~~

23 ➔ Section 2. KRS 304.47-020 is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) For the purposes of this subtitle, a person or entity commits a "fraudulent insurance
25 act" if he or she engages in any of the following, including but not limited to
26 matters relating to workers' compensation:

27 (a) Knowingly and with intent to defraud or deceive presents, causes to be

presented, or prepares with knowledge or belief that it will be presented to an insurer, Board of Claims, Special Fund, or any agent thereof:

1. Any written or oral statement as part of, or in support of, a claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy or from a "self-insurer" as defined by KRS Chapter 342, knowing that the statement contains any false, incomplete, or misleading information concerning any fact or thing material to a claim;~~{or}~~

2. To the extent not otherwise included under subparagraph 1. of this paragraph, any statement that misrepresents the scope of damages, including repair costs and other expenses, associated with a property, casualty, or property and casualty insurance claim, including any claim for towing or storage benefits under a property, casualty, or property and casualty insurance policy, except this subparagraph shall not apply to offers or counteroffers by legal counsel representing a plaintiff or defendant in a disputed claim involving bodily injury; or

~~3.~~~~{2.}~~ Any statement as part of, or in support of, an application for an insurance policy, for renewal, reinstatement, or replacement of insurance, or in support of an application to a lender for money to pay a premium, knowing that the statement contains any false, incomplete, or misleading information concerning any fact or thing material to the application;

(b) Knowingly and willfully transacts any contract, agreement, or instrument which violates this title;

(c) Knowingly and with intent to defraud or deceive:

1. Receives money for the purpose of purchasing insurance, and fails to obtain insurance;

2. Fails to make payment or disposition of money or voucher as defined in

1 KRS 304.17A-750, as required by agreement or legal obligation, that
2 comes into his or her possession while acting as a licensee under this
3 chapter;

4 3. Presents, causes to be presented, or prepares with knowledge or belief
5 that it will be presented to or by an insurer, or to the commissioner, any
6 statement, knowing that the statement contains any false, incomplete, or
7 misleading information concerning any material fact or thing, as part of,
8 or in support of one (1) or more of the following:

9 a. The rating of an insurance policy;

10 b. The financial condition of an insurer;

11 c. The formation, acquisition, merger, reconsolidation, dissolution, or
12 withdrawal from one (1) or more lines of insurance in all or part of
13 this Commonwealth by an insurer; or

14 d. A document filed with the commissioner; or

15 4. Engages in any of the following:

16 a. Solicitation or acceptance of new or renewal insurance risks on
17 behalf of an insolvent insurer; or

18 b. Removal, concealment, alteration, tampering, or destruction of
19 money, records, or any other property or assets of an insurer;

20 (d) Issues or knowingly presents fake or counterfeit insurance policies,
21 certificates of insurance, insurance identification cards, insurance binders, or
22 any other documents that purport to evidence insurance;

23 (e) Makes any false or fraudulent representation as to the death or disability of a
24 policy or certificate holder in any written statement or certificate for the
25 purpose of fraudulently obtaining money or benefit from an insurer;

26 (f) Engages in unauthorized insurance, as set forth in KRS 304.11-030; or

27 (g) Assists, abets, solicits, or conspires with another to commit a fraudulent

1 insurance act in violation of this subtitle.

2 (2) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of
3 a Class A misdemeanor, unless the aggregate of the claim, benefit, or money
4 referred to in subsection (1) of this section is:

5 (a) Five hundred dollars (\$500) or more but less than ten thousand dollars
6 (\$10,000), in which case it is a Class D felony;

7 (b) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more but less than one million dollars
8 (\$1,000,000), in which case it is a Class C felony; or

9 (c) One million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more, in which case it is a Class B felony.

10 (3) A person, with the purpose to establish or maintain a criminal syndicate or to
11 facilitate any of its activities, shall be guilty of engaging in organized crime, a Class
12 B felony, if he or she engages in any of the activities set forth in KRS 506.120(1).

13 (4) A person convicted of a crime established in this section shall be punished by:

14 (a) Imprisonment for a term:

15 1. Not to exceed the period set forth in KRS 532.090 if the crime is a Class
16 A misdemeanor; or

17 2. Within the periods set forth in KRS 532.060 if the crime is a Class D, C,
18 or B felony;

19 (b) A fine, per occurrence, of:

20 1. For a misdemeanor, not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per
21 individual nor five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per corporation or twice
22 the amount of gain received as a result of the violation, whichever is
23 greater; or

24 2. For a felony, not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per
25 individual nor one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per corporation,
26 or twice the amount of gain received as a result of the violation;
27 whichever is greater; or

1 (c) Both imprisonment and a fine, as set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this
2 subsection.

3 (5) (a) In addition to imprisonment, the assessment of a fine, or both, a person
4 convicted of a crime established in this section may be ordered to make
5 restitution to any victim who suffered a monetary loss due to any actions by
6 that person which resulted in the adjudication of guilt, and to the division for
7 the cost of any investigation.

8 (b) The amount of restitution shall equal the monetary value of the actual loss or
9 twice the amount of gain received as a result of the violation, whichever is
10 greater.

11 (6) Any person damaged as a result of a violation of any provision of this section shall
12 have a cause of action to recover compensatory damages, plus all reasonable
13 investigation and litigation expenses, including attorneys' fees, at the trial and
14 appellate courts.

15 (7) (a) The provisions of this section shall also apply to any agent, unauthorized
16 insurer or its agents or representatives, or surplus lines carrier who, with
17 intent, injures, defrauds, or deceives any claimant with regard to any claim.

18 (b) The claimant shall have the right to recover the damages provided in
19 subsection (6) of this section.