

No. 2025-9321

**Official Order
of the
Texas Commissioner of Insurance**

Date: 05/30/2025

Subject Considered:

Jeremy Cepress
South Houston, Texas

Default Order
SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C
TDI Enforcement File No. 34358

General Remarks and Official Action Taken:

The subject of this default order is whether a Life Agent license should be issued to Jeremy Cepress (Respondent). Respondent did not appear at the hearing on the merits. This order denies Respondent's license application.

The following findings of fact and conclusions of law are adopted.

Findings of Fact

Failure to Appear at Hearing on the Merits

1. On February 5, 2025, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) filed a Notice of Hearing, together with a previously filed Original Petition and Scheduling Order, with the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), and which attached documents were admitted as Exhibit 1 at the hearing on the merits.
2. TDI's factual allegations set out in the attached Notice of Hearing and Original Petition are incorporated in this order as findings of fact.
3. TDI sent the Notice of Hearing, Original Petition, and Scheduling Order together to Respondent's last known address provided in writing to the department, [REDACTED]

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Commissioner's Order

Jeremy Cepress

SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C

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██████████, South Houston, Texas 77587. The Notice of Hearing, Original Petition, and Scheduling Order were also sent by electronic mail

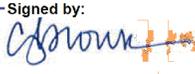
4. After being properly served the notice of the date, time, and location of the hearing on the merits, Respondent failed to appear for the hearing on May 6, 2025, and SOAH has remanded this matter to the commissioner for informal disposition by default, as shown in the record in SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C.

Conclusions of Law

1. The commissioner has jurisdiction under Texas law, including TEX. INS. CODE §§ 82.051-82.055, 4001.002, 4001.102, 4001.105, 4005.101-4005.105, 4054.301; TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.021-53.023; 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502; and TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 2001.051-2001.178.
2. Based on Respondent's failure to appear in person or by legal representative at the hearing, the commissioner has authority to informally dispose of this case by default under TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 2001.056(4) and 2001.058(d-1), and TEX. INS. CODE § 82.055.
3. TDI provided proper notice of the hearing under TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 2001.051, 2001.052, and 2001.054; TEX. INS. CODE § 4001.252(a)(1); and, 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 1.28 and 19.906.
4. TDI's factual and legal allegations set out in the attached Notice of Hearing and Original Petition are incorporated in this order and were deemed admitted as true by SOAH under 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 155.501(d)(1).

Order

It is ordered that Jeremy Cepress's' application is denied. A copy of this order will be provided to law enforcement or other appropriate administrative agencies for further investigation as may be warranted.

Signed by:

FC5D7EDDFFBB4F8

Cassie Brown
Commissioner of Insurance

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SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C

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Prepared and reviewed by:

/s/ Jeannie Ricketts

Jeannie Ricketts, Staff Attorney
Enforcement

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Jeremy Cepress
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Affidavit

STATE OF TEXAS §

§

COUNTY OF TRAVIS §

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared David Moreno, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed as follows:

"My name is David Moreno and I am employed by the Texas Department of Insurance. I am of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and have personal knowledge of these facts which are true and correct.

I have reviewed TDI's records concerning Jeremy Cepress. I have confirmed that:

- a. The last mailing address provided to the department in writing by Jeremy Cepress is [REDACTED], South Houston, Texas 77587.
- b. The file maintained by Enforcement contains a Notice of Hearing, dated February 5, 2025, and an Original Petition dated January 22, 2025, which were filed together with the State Office of Administrative Hearings on February 5, 2025.
- c. On February 5, 2025, the Notice of Hearing, Original Petition, and Scheduling Order, were addressed to Jeremy Cepress and mailed first-class and certified, return receipt requested, to his last known address.

Copies of the certified mail log and first-class mail log maintained by Enforcement are attached as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, respectively."

Signed by:

4FEBE04E583C40A...
Affidavit

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Commissioner's Order

Jeremy Cepress

SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C

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SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me by means of an interactive two-way audio and video communication on 5/14/2025. This notarial act was an online notarization.

Notary Seal



Digital Certificate

Signed by:
Mary Ruiz
795DC4D59167489...
Notary Public State of Texas

FILED **2025-9321**
454-25-10804
2/5/2025 12:20 PM
STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Jessica Rodriguez, CLERK

ACCEPTED
454-25-10804
2/5/2025 1:40:59 pm
STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Jessica Rodriguez, CLERK

SOAH DOCKET NO. 454-25-10804.C
TDI ENFORCEMENT FILE NO. 34358

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

Petitioner

v.

OF

JEREMY CEPRESS,

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Respondent

NOTICE OF HEARING

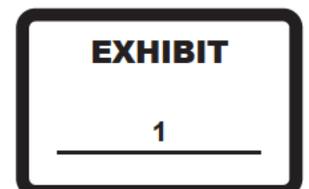
The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) seeks to deny your license application. This Notice of Hearing and the Original Petition, which is attached and incorporated for all purposes, states the allegations against you and the relief sought by TDI.

A public hearing will be held before an Administrative Law Judge on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** The hearing will take place via videoconference using a videoconference platform controlled by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH), unless otherwise ordered to proceed in another manner by the Administrative Law Judge. The attached SOAH scheduling order includes the hyperlink and telephone contact information to attend the videoconference hearing.

The hearing shall be conducted under TEX. GOV'T CODE, ch. 2001 and 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE, ch. 155. Unless otherwise directed by the Administrative Law Judge, the hearing shall continue from day to day in the offices of the State Office of Administrative Hearings until concluded. You have the right to appear at this hearing and to be represented by an attorney.

Parties that are not represented by an attorney may obtain information regarding contested case hearings on the public website of the State Office of Administrative Hearings at www.soah.texas.gov, or in printed format upon request to SOAH.

YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF HEARING WITH THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS WITHIN 20 DAYS OF THE DATE THE NOTICE OF HEARING WAS MAILED. FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE BY



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THIS DEADLINE SHALL ENTITLE TDI TO SEEK DISPOSITION BY DEFAULT UNDER 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 155.501 AND 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 1.88 AND 1.89.

IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE, THE SCHEDULED HEARING CAN BE CANCELED AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE CAN ISSUE AN ORDER IN WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING ARE DEEMED ADMITTED AS TRUE AND THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING, INCLUDING DENIAL OF YOUR LICENSE APPLICATION, IS GRANTED BY DEFAULT.

IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE BUT THEN FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DAY AND TIME SET FOR HEARING, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE CAN ISSUE AN ORDER IN WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING ARE DEEMED ADMITTED AS TRUE AND THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE NOTICE OF HEARING, INCLUDING DENIAL OF YOUR LICENSE APPLICATION, IS GRANTED BY DEFAULT.

In accord with 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.90(e) and 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 155.101 and 155.103, you should send copies of your written response to:

- (1) *(by mail, fax, or electronically)*
Docketing Division
State Office of Administrative Hearings
300 West 15th Street, Room 504
P.O. Box 13025
Austin, Texas 78711-3025
(512) 322-2061 (Fax);
www.soah.texas.gov

- (2) *(by mail, fax, or email)*
Chief Clerk
Texas Department of Insurance
P.O. Box 12030, MC GC-CCO
Austin, Texas 78711-2030
(512) 490-1064 (Fax)
chiefclerk@tdi.texas.gov; and

- (3) *(by mail, fax, or email)*

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Jeannie Ricketts, Staff Attorney
Texas Department of Insurance
Enforcement, MC ENF
P.O. Box 12030
Austin, Texas 78711-2030
(512) 490-1020 (Fax)
jeannie.ricketts@tdi.texas.gov

Receiving Documents Electronically and Filing Documents with SOAH

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) offers you the ability to electronically receive orders and other documents issued by SOAH by email instead of by mail. If you want to receive SOAH-issued documents by email, follow the instructions on SOAH's website: www.soah.texas.gov.

A request to receive SOAH-issued documents by email does not change the procedures you must follow to file documents or exhibits with SOAH. Instructions on how to file documents and exhibits are on SOAH's website. SOAH's website also includes guidance for representing yourself.

Important Security Notice (for In-Person Hearings ONLY)

ALL VISITORS TO THE WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS BUILDING WITHOUT AN AGENCY OR DPS ISSUED ID CARD MUST PROVIDE THE BUILDING SECURITY OFFICER WITH THE STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DOCKET NUMBER AND RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS IN ORDER TO BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE HEARING ROOM. INDIVIDUALS SHOULD ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME TO GO THROUGH THE SECURITY PROCESS.

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Notice of Hearing

Jeremy Cepress

SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804.C

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If you have any questions, please contact me at the address or telephone number shown below.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jeannie Ricketts

Jeannie Ricketts

State Bar No. 24041774

Texas Department of Insurance

Enforcement, MC ENF

P.O. Box 12030

Austin, Texas 78711-2030

(512) 676-6336 (Direct)

(512) 490-1020 (Fax)

jeannie.ricketts@tdi.texas.gov

ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Enclosures: Original Petition and SOAH Scheduling Order

cc: Leah Gillum, Deputy Commissioner, Fraud and Enforcement Division, MC ENF
Whitney Fraser, Litigation Director, Enforcement, MC ENF
Administrative Review, MC CO-AAL

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jeannie Ricketts, certify that a true and correct copy of the *Notice of Hearing, the Original Petition, and the SOAH Scheduling Order* were sent by the following methods shown, on this 5th day of February, 2025 to:

Jeremy Cepress
[REDACTED]
South Houston, TX 77587
Respondent Pro Se

Via CM/RRR No.:
9214 8901 9403 8399 8261 53
Via First Class Mail

[REDACTED]

Via Email

/s/Jeannie Ricketts
Jeannie Ricketts

FILED
454-25-10804 **2025-9321**
1/22/2025 9:48 AM
STATE OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Jessica Rodriguez, CLERK

SOAH Docket No. 454-25-10804

SOAH DOCKET NO. 454-_____
TDI ENFORCEMENT FILE NO. 34358

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,

BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

Petitioner

v.

OF

JEREMY AUSTIN CEPRESS,

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Respondent

ORIGINAL PETITION

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) seeks to deny Jeremy Cepress' license application. In support of this petition, TDI makes the following allegations upon information and belief:

Jurisdiction

The commissioner of insurance has jurisdiction over this matter under TEX. INS. CODE §§ 82.051-82.055, 4001.002, 4005.101, 4005.102, and 4054.301; TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 2001.051-2001.178; TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.021-53.023; and 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502.

Factual Allegations

License Application:

1. On February 5, 2024, Cepress applied for a Life Agent license and disclosed a criminal history.
2. On March 12, 2024, TDI proposed to deny Cepress' license.

Criminal History:

Case No. NA058584-02 – Burglary, Los Angeles, California

1. On September 23, 2003, in case No. NA058584-02, Los Angeles, California, charged Cepress with First Degree Felony Residential Burglary under CAL. PENAL CODE § 459,

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Jeremy Austin Cepress
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which occurred on September 20, 2003. Cepress committed the offense in association with a criminal street gang with the specific intent to promote, further, and assist in criminal conduct by gang members under CAL. PENAL CODE § 186.22(b)(1)(C).

2. Under Texas law, Residential Burglary is addressed in TEX. PEN. CODE § 30.02.
3. Under Texas law, burglary is a crime of moral turpitude.¹
4. On February 19, 2004, Cepress pleaded nolo contendere and the court convicted him of the offense. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail (less credit for 45 days) and placed on three years formal probation.
5. On October 28, 2004, the court determined Cepress violated his probation. It revoked his probation and sentenced him to two years in state prison (with credit for 127 days (85 days actual plus 42 days good time/work time).
6. The sentence ran concurrent to NA062630, as described in detail below.
7. The proceedings terminated on or about October 28, 2006.²
8. Pursuant to CAL. PEN. CODE § 1203.4, California destroyed the record in case No. NA058584-02 on January 27, 2007.

Case No. NA 063252 – Felony False Personations and Cheats

9. On October 27, 2004, in case No. NA 063252, Los Angeles County charged Cepress with three offenses. Count 1 was for CAL. PEN. CODE § 530.5(A), Felony False Personations and Cheats. Count 2 was for CAL. PEN. CODE § 459, Felony Burglary. Count 3 was for CAL. PEN. CODE § 470(D), Felony Forgery and Counterfeiting. All were committed on October 11, 2004, in Los Angeles.

¹ *Robinson v. State*, No. 01-95-00442-CR, 1998 WL 47821 (Tex. App.—Houston [1st Dist.] 1008) (Stating: “Burglary’ is a crime of moral turpitude. A person commits burglary by entering a building without the owner’s effective consent with the intent to commit a felony or theft. Tex. Pen. Code Ann. § 30.02(a) (Vernon 1994)).

² Pursuant to CAL. PEN. CODE § 1203.4, California destroyed the record in case No. NA058584-02 on January 27, 2007.

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10. On the same day, Cepress pleaded nolo contendere to Count 1. The court convicted him on Count 1 and sentenced him to 16 months in state prison (with credit for 25 days in custody – 17 days actual custody and 8 days good time/work time). It assessed Cepress a \$20 court security deposit and \$200 restitution. The court dismissed Counts 2 and 3 due to plea negotiations.
11. On April 5, 2005, the court terminated the proceedings.

Case No. NA062630 – Misdemeanor Receiving Stolen Property, Los Angeles, California

12. On October 28, 2004, in case No. NA062630, Cepress pleaded guilty to, and the court convicted him of, Misdemeanor Receiving Stolen Property (Larceny) under Cal. Penal Code § 496(A)³ in Los Angeles, California, which occurred on August 25, 2004.⁴ He was sentenced to two years in state prison (with credit for 97 days served – 97 days in custody, 65 days actual custody, and 32 days good time/work time). The court also ordered him to pay a \$400 parole restitution fine and \$20 for a court security assessment.
13. Under Texas law, Receiving Stolen Property is addressed in TEX. PEN. CODE § 31.02.⁵
14. The sentence ran concurrent to case No. NA058584-02.
15. The proceedings terminated on or about October 28, 2006.

Case No. NA062634 – Assault with a Firearm, Los Angeles, California

16. On December 30, 2005, in case No. NA062634, California charged Cepress with Assault with a Firearm under CAL. PEN. CODE § 245(a)(2), which occurred on or about December 28, 2005, in association with a criminal street gang. Cepress personally wielded a handgun. Cepress pleaded “not guilty.”
17. On May 4, 2006, Cepress filed a motion to dismiss the case under CAL. PEN. CODE § 995, setting aside the accusation. The court granted his motion.

³ Pursuant to Cal. Prop. 47, CAL. PEN. CODE § 496(A) was made a misdemeanor under CAL. PEN. CODE § 1170.18(A). And Cepress’s felony conviction was made a misdemeanor.

⁴ Pleaded down from a misdemeanor.

⁵ *TDI v. Patricia A. Tate*, No. 454-98-2266.C, 2004 WL 4171968 (SOAH Aug. 2004).

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18. On or about June 7, 2006, the court terminated the proceedings.

Case No. NA105124-01 – Felony Possession of a Firearm by a Felon - Second Strike

19. On May 5, 2017, in case No. NA105124-01, California charged Cepass with Count 1 - Felony Possession of a Firearm by a Felon – Prior(s) under CAL. PEN. CODE § 29800(a)(1), which occurred on January 8, 2016,⁶ and Count 2 - Felony Manufacturing, Importing, Keeping for Sale, Giving, or Receiving a Large Capacity Magazine, under CAL. PEN. CODE §32310(A).⁷ The offenses were committed for the furtherance of a criminal street gang, which raised the level of the offense to a serious felony under CAL. PEN. CODE § 1192.7(c)(28).

20. Under Texas law, Felon in Possession of Firearm is addressed in TEX. PEN. CODE § 46.04 Unlawful Possession of Firearm.

21. On November 8, 2017, in the Los Angeles Superior Court-Long Beach, Cepass pleaded nolo contendere and the court convicted him of the offense and sentenced him to four years in state prison (with credit for 104 days served - 52 days in actual custody and 52 days for good time/work time). It also ordered him to pay a \$300 restitution fine, a \$300 supervision restitution fine, a \$40 court operations assessment, and a \$30 criminal conviction assessment. (with credit for 104 days served - 52 days in actual custody and 52 days for good time/work time).

Case No. 175490301010 – Felony Failure to Stop and Render Aid, Houston, Texas

22. On January 14, 2022, in Case No. 175490301010, Harris County charged Cepass with Felony Failure to Stop and Render Aid, which occurred on January 13, 2022, after he was involved in a vehicle accident that injured MM.

23. On November 2, 2022, Cepass pleaded guilty and was convicted of the offense and sentenced to one year in county jail (with two days credit) and ordered to pay \$290 in court fees and a \$25 reimbursement fee.

⁶ The two prior convictions were in Los Angeles California in Case nos. NA058584 and NA062630.

⁷ *Duncan v. Bonta*, 695 F. Supp. 3d 1206 (S.D. Cal. 2023)(held that California’s statute banning and dispossessing owners of magazines holding more than 10 records violated the Second Amendment).

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Case No. 239112101010 – Class A Misdemeanor Evading Arrest Detention, Houston, Texas

24. On January 15, 2022, in Case No. 239112101010, in Harris County District Court No. 14, Cepress was charged with Class A Misdemeanor Evading Arrest Detention, which occurred on January 13, 2022.
25. On November 2, 2022, the court dismissed the case because Cepress was convicted in case No. 175490301010.

Legal Allegations

1. Cepress has been convicted of a felony as contemplated by TEX. INS. CODE § 4005.101(b)(8), 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502, and TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.021-53.023.
2. Cepress has committed a felony or misdemeanor that directly relates to the business of insurance, as contemplated in TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.021-53.023 and 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(d)(1).
3. Cepress engaged in fraudulent or dishonest acts or practices, as contemplated by TEX. INS. CODE § 4005.101(b)(5).
4. Cepress committed a felony involving moral turpitude or breach of fiduciary duty as contemplated by 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(f)(3).
5. Cepress has been convicted of a misdemeanor that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation as contemplated in TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.021 and 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502.
6. Cepress committed offenses under the laws of another state, federal law, the laws of a foreign country, or the Uniform Code of Military Justice that contain elements that are substantially similar to the elements of an offense listed under this section, as contemplated by 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(f)(2).
7. TDI guidelines, 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(c)-(e), emphasize that TDI:
 - a. considers it very important that applicants be honest, trustworthy, and reliable;

- b. may refuse to issue an original license if TDI determines that the applicant has committed a felony or misdemeanor, or has engaged in fraudulent or dishonest activity that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation; and
 - c. considers burglary, assaultive offenses, and theft offenses, and crimes in which fraud, dishonesty, or deceit is an essential element, to be of such a serious nature that it is of prime importance when determining fitness for licensure. 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(f)(4)(J), (f)(4)(F), and (f)(4)(K).
8. The factors referred to in 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(g), listed in TEX. OCC. CODE §§ 53.022(1)-(5) and 53.023(a)(1)-(7), do not outweigh the serious nature of Cepass’s criminal offense, as 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 1.502(d) contemplates.
9. Cepass has been convicted of a criminal felony involving dishonesty or a breach of trust, as contemplated by 18 U.S.C. § 1033.
10. Cepass has not obtained the written consent of the commissioner of insurance to engage in the business of insurance following her conviction for a criminal felony involving dishonesty or a breach of trust, as contemplated in 18 U.S.C. § 1033.

Relief Sought

If one or more of the above allegations is found to be true, TDI asks the Administrative Law Judge to enter a Proposal for Decision recommending that the commissioner of insurance issue an order:

- 1. denying Cepass’s license application; and
- 2. imposing any other just and appropriate relief to which the department may be entitled to by law, including any combination of the above actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jeannie Ricketts

Jeannie Ricketts

State Bar No. 24041774

Texas Department of Insurance

Enforcement, MC ENF

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Jeremy Austin Ceyress
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P.O. Box 12030
Austin, Texas 78711-2030
(512) 676-6336 (Direct)
(512) 490-1020 (Fax)
Jeannie.Ricketts@tdi.texas.gov

ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

2025-9321

Automated Certificate of eService

This automated certificate of service was created by the eFiling system. The filer served this document via email generated by the eFiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules.

Mary Ruiz on behalf of Jeannie Ricketts
Bar No. 24041774
Enforcementgeneral@tdi.texas.gov
Envelope ID: 96460267
Filing Code Description: Request to Docket
Filing Description: Cephess Request to Docket
Status as of 1/22/2025 10:15 AM CST

Case Contacts

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Chief Clerk		ChiefClerk@tdi.texas.gov	1/22/2025 9:48:09 AM	SENT
Jeannie Ricketts		Jeannie.Ricketts@tdi.texas.gov	1/22/2025 9:48:09 AM	SENT
Whitney Fraser		Whitney.Fraser@tdi.texas.gov	1/22/2025 9:48:09 AM	SENT
Texas Department of Insurance		Enforcementgeneral@tdi.texas.gov	1/22/2025 9:48:09 AM	SENT
Jeremy Austin Cephess		[REDACTED]	1/22/2025 9:48:09 AM	SENT

**BEFORE THE
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS**

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,
PETITIONER
V.
JEREMY AUSTIN CEPRESS,
RESPONDENT**

ORDER SCHEDULING HEARING ON THE MERITS

1. **Case Referred.** This case has been docketed at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) and assigned to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The parties are encouraged to visit SOAH's website at www.soah.texas.gov for information about hearings, including a link to SOAH's procedural rules, which govern this case.
2. **Hearing.** A hearing will be held at **9:00 AM (CT) on May 6, 2025**, remotely via Zoom videoconference. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.405(c). The audio portion of the hearing will be recorded, and it will be the official record of the proceeding. Attend the hearing in one of these ways:

To join by computer or smart device, go to
<https://soah-texas.zoomgov.com> and enter:

Meeting ID: 160 985 2659

Video Passcode: TDC584

To join by telephone (audio only), call
+1 669 254 5252, and enter:

Meeting ID: 160 985 2659

Telephone Passcode: 032421

3. **Notice.** Staff for the Texas Department of Insurance must issue a notice of hearing. Tex. Gov't Code §§ 2001.051–.052.
4. **Three Business Days Before the Hearing.** The following must be done at least three business days before the hearing. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the exclusion of evidence.
 - a. **Exhibits:**
 - Make an exhibit list;
 - Number each exhibit sequentially; and
 - Paginate or bates stamp multipage documents.
 - b. **Witness List:**
 - Identify each witness you will call to testify;
 - Mention what each witness will testify about; and
 - Estimate how long each witness will testify.
 - c. **Witnesses:**
 - Give each witness the information to access the hearing;

- Give each witness the documents needed to participate in the hearing;
- Have each witness's contact information available so additional documents can be provided to each witness during the hearing if needed.

d. **Upload Your Exhibit List, Exhibits, and Witness List.**

- Upload your exhibit list, exhibits, and witness list using Kiteworks by going to <https://soah.kiteworks.com/form/upload#/>
- Exhibits must be labeled by party, exhibit number, and description.
- You can submit ten files or folders per upload. Contents of folders must be clearly identified.
- Separate CONFIDENTIAL exhibits from non-confidential exhibits. Upload confidential exhibits with separate uploads in Kiteworks. Select the appropriate security classification in the "Designate Classification" field in Kiteworks. Confidential files and folders must be clearly labeled "CONFIDENTIAL."
- Further information may be found [here](#).

e. **Share Your Exhibit List, Exhibits, and Witness List.**

- Send your exhibit list, exhibits, and witness list to the other parties.
- Uploading documents through Kiteworks sends them to the judge but not to the other parties.
- Talk to the other party to confirm they received your documents. Be prepared to show that you gave them the documents. *See* 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.429(b)(4)(B).

5. **One Business Day After the Hearing, File Admitted Exhibits.** The first business day after the hearing, the parties must eFile only the exhibits that were admitted as evidence or accompanied by an offer of proof. 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.101(b)(1)(G)(iii). The admitted exhibits and offer of proof will constitute the official evidentiary record of the proceeding. *See* 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.101(b)(1)(A). For more information, see the [SOAH General Order](#).

6. **eFile.** Except as otherwise permitted by the SOAH Rules of Procedure, attorneys, state agencies, and other governmental entities are required to file pleadings electronically through eFileTexas.gov and an electronic filing service provider certified by the Texas Office of Court Administration. *See* 1 Tex. Admin. Code § 155.101.
7. **Representing Yourself.**
 - a. **A Guide.** Some parties choose to represent themselves in the contested-case process. Self-represented litigants must follow SOAH’s procedures, but SOAH has published material that will help parties understand how to do that. Here is the Guide for Self Represented Litigants: <https://www.soah.texas.gov/representing-yourself-general-hearings-cases-state-office-administrative-hearings>.
 - b. **Filings.** If you are not represented by an attorney and you do not wish to file documents using eFileTexas, you may file documents in one of these ways: by email to GeneralDocketFax@soah.labus.com; by mail addressed to SOAH, P.O. Box 13025, Austin, Texas 78711-3025; or by hand delivery to the appropriate SOAH office. All filings must contain the SOAH docket number and the names of the parties. For documents filed by mail, fax, or hand-delivery, the time of filing shall be determined by the SOAH file stamp.
 - c. **Electronic Service of SOAH orders.** You can receive documents from SOAH by email. To elect to receive service of SOAH-issued documents by email, go to the E-Services tab on SOAH’s website (www.soah.texas.gov), click on “Request Email Service” and follow the instructions. NOTE: Your request to receive SOAH-issued documents by email does not change the procedures you must follow in order to file documents with SOAH.
 - d. **Filing Admitted Exhibits.** Under certain circumstances, SOAH may file admitted exhibits on behalf of self-represented litigants.
8. **Questions about Zoom, Kiteworks, or Filings.** Call SOAH’s Chief Clerk’s Office at (512) 475-4993.

Signed February 4, 2025.

ALJ Signature:



Megan Johnson,

Presiding Administrative Law Judge

2025-9321

Automated Certificate of eService

This automated certificate of service was created by the eFiling system. The filer served this document via email generated by the eFiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules.

Mary Ruiz on behalf of Jeannie Ricketts
Bar No. 24041774
Enforcementgeneral@tdi.texas.gov
Envelope ID: 97010369
Filing Code Description: Notice of Hearing
Filing Description: NOH AND ORIGINAL PETITION
Status as of 2/5/2025 1:42 PM CST

Associated Case Party: TDI

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Whitney Fraser		Whitney.Fraser@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT
Jeannie Ricketts		Jeannie.Ricketts@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT
Texas Department of Insurance		Enforcementgeneral@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT
Leah Gillum		Leah.Gillum@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT
Jodie Delgado		jodie.delgado@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT

Associated Case Party: Chief Clerk

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Chief Clerk		ChiefClerk@tdi.texas.gov	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT

Associated Case Party: JeremyAustinCepress

Name	BarNumber	Email	TimestampSubmitted	Status
Jeremy Austin Cepress		[REDACTED]	2/5/2025 12:20:40 PM	SENT

2025-9321

Shipment Confirmation
Acceptance Notice



A. Mailer Action

Note to Mailer: The labels and volume associated to this form online, must match the labeled packages being presented to the USPS® employee with this form.

Shipment Date: 02/05/2025
Shipped From:
Name: ENF M RUIZ
Address: 1601 CONGRESS AVENUE
City: AUSTIN
State: TX ZIP+4® 78701

Type of Mail	Volume
Priority Mail Express®*	
Priority Mail®	
First-Class Package Service®	
Returns	
International*	
Other	1
Total	1

*Start time for products with service guarantees will begin when mail arrives at the local Post Office™ and items receive individual processing and acceptance scans.

B. USPS Action

Note to RSS Clerk:

1. Home screen > Mailing/Shipping > More
2. Select Shipment Confirm
3. Scan or enter the barcode/label number from PS Form 5630
4. Confirm the volume count message by selecting Yes or No
5. Select Pay and End Visit to complete transaction

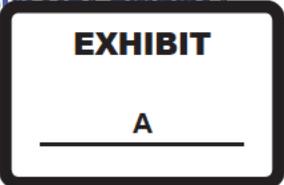
USPS EMPLOYEE: Please scan upon pickup or receipt of mail.
Leave form with customer or in customer's mail receptacle.

USPS SCAN AT ACCEPTANCE



9275 0901 1935 6200 0058 8538 17

RICKETTS/34358





Firm Mailing Book For Accountable Mail

Name and Address of Sender
ENF M RUIZ
1601 CONGRESS AVENUE
STE 6.900
AUSTIN TX 78701

- Check type of mail or service
- Adult Signature Required
 - Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
 - Certified Mail
 - Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
 - Collect on Delivery (COD)
 - Insured Mail
 - Priority Mail
 - Priority Mail Express
 - Registered Mail
 - Return Receipt for Merchandise
 - Signature Confirmation
 - Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Affix Stamp Here
(for additional copies of this receipt)
Postmark with Date of Receipt.

USPS Tracking/Article Number

9214 8901 9403 8399 8261 53

RICKETTS/34358

Addressee (Name, Street, City, State, & ZIP Code™)
JEREMY CEPRESS
[REDACTED]
SOUTH HOUSTON, TX 77587

Postage	(Extra Service) Fee	Handling Charge	Actual Value if Registered	Insured Value	Due Sender if COD	ASR Fee	ASRD Fee	RD Fee	RR Fee	SC Fee	SCRD Fee	SH Fee
2.04	4.85								2.62			

Handling Charge - if Registered and over \$50,000 in value

Adult Signature Required

Adult Signature Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

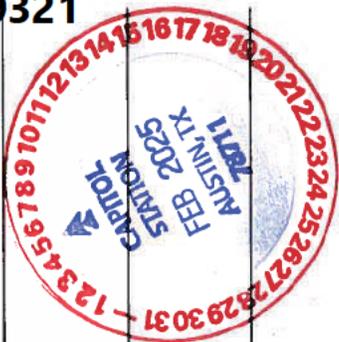
Return Receipt

Signature Confirmation

Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Special Handling

RECEIVED
FEB 06 2025
TDI - ENFORCEMENT



2025-9321

Total Number of Pieces Listed by Sender: 1

Total Number of Pieces Received at Post Office: (1)

Postmaster: Per (Name of receiving employee)

Complete in Ink

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