STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Bulletin 2015-14-INS

In the matter of

Automobile Policy Cancellations for Fraudulent Claims

> issued and entered this //2⁹day of June 2015 by Patrick M. McPharlin, Director

It has come to the Director's attention that certain automobile insurance policy forms contain provisions that impermissibly allow the insurer to rescind or terminate policies without notice when the insurance company denies a claim because the insured person has committed fraud in the making of the claim.

Insurers should be aware that automobile policies may be terminated only in accordance with the applicable notice provisions in the Insurance Code of 1956, MCL 500.100 *et seq.* (Code), when the alleged fraud has occurred in connection with a claim (as opposed to fraud that occurs in the application for a policy). Specifically, Sections 2123 and 3224 of the Code require an insurance company to provide a policyholder with 30 days' notice for individual policies and 20 days' notice for group policies if an insurer terminates a policy because the policyholder has committed fraud in connection with a claim.

Insurance policy form provisions that provide for termination or rescission without notice in the event of fraud in connection with a claim are not enforceable. The Department of Insurance and Financial Services will review new and revised forms for these types of impermissible provisions. Insurers are encouraged to review their policy forms, make necessary modifications, and file them with DIFS if the reviewed forms are found to contain impermissible provisions.

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to:

Department of Insurance and Financial Services Office of Product Review 530 W. Allegan St. P.O. Box 30220 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7720 Toll Free: (877) 999-6442

Patrick M. McPharlin Director