### IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI ex rel. THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

ILED

D.C.

**PLAINTIFF** 

VS.

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK

CAUSE NO. G-2005-1642-\_

MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU INSWRANCE
COMPANY, et al.

**DEFENDANTS** 

## STIPULATION OF DISMISSAL AS TO STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between Plaintiff and State Farm Fire and Casualty Company (State Farm), acting through their respective counsel of record that:

- 1. The Complaint against State Farm and Counterclaim against Plaintiff will be dismissed with prejudice, pursuant to Rule 41(a), Miss. R. Civ. Pro.;
- 2. Dismissal will be without taxation of costs, each party to bear its own costs and attorney fees;
- 3. No other Defendant has a cross-claim against State Farm, and it does not have a Cross-claim against any other defendant, so no other Defendant need join this Stipulation; and
- 4. Plaintiff and State Farm will present an Agreed Final Order of Dismissal to the Court to accomplish the stipulated dismissal.

STIPULATED AND AGREED, this 23ac day of January, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL

W. SCOTT WELCH, III, MB#7093

ATTORNEY FOR STATE FARM

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### IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, ex rel. THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

**PLAINTIFF** 

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. G-2005-1642 O/3

MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE, STATE FARM FIRE AND
CASUALTY COMPANY, ALLSTATE
PROPERTY AND CASUALTY
INSURANCE COMPANY, UNITED
SERVICES AUTOMOBILE
ASSOCIATION, NATIONWIDE MUTOAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, and "A"
THROUGH "Z" ENTITIES (M.R.C.P.
9(h) DEFENDANTS)

**DEFENDANTS** 

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement applies to all properties insured by State Farm and located in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties which were damaged during hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and the conditions contained herein shall apply to any claims in these three Coastal Counties arising from Hurricane Katrina for a period of three years.

# I. <u>Disclosure of All Information Regarding Claims in These Three Coastal</u> Counties Arising from Hurricane Katrina

- A. Upon request, a claimant shall have the right to promptly obtain a full and complete copy of all non-privileged information contained in his/her or its claim files. The claim files shall include any and all information received from any source during the adjustment of the claim. What materials will be provided will be determined by the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure and by applicable Mississippi Rules of Evidence and Mississippi common law governing privilege. A request for such claim files shall include all claim files associated with the insured property.
- B. The Attorney General and Commissioner of Insurance shall be entitled to obtain a copy of any and all master agreements between State Farm and engineering firms and independent adjusting firms used to review Hurricane Katrina claims in

additional communication and correspondence shall be documented and retained in the claim files and timely supplemented.

F. State Farm will pay the engineering firms' fees for performance of services, regardless of the conclusions expressed in the report.

### III. Re-Evaluation of Claims

State Farm agrees to establish an administrative procedure to reevaluate claims of State Farm policyholders in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties who had residential or commercial policies in effect on August 29, 2005. This process will establish an orderly, fair, and prompt resolution of claims, and will be submitted for approval to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. This administrative procedure applies only to settlement class members as defined in the agreement to be submitted to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. In connection with this procedure, State Farm agrees as follows:

- A. State Farm will review and reconsider every claim upon the policyholder's request; and during said process, State Farm will not use any adjuster who was involved in the previous adjustment of said claim;
- B. After each claim has been reviewed and reconsidered, State Farm will submit an offer of settlement to the policyholder based upon criteria and guidelines approved by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi and the provisions of this Settlement Agreement;
- C. For any policyholder who disagrees and rejects State Farm's settlement offer, a fair and expeditious arbitration process will be available for such policyholders; and such arbitration process will be binding upon the parties. Prior to the arbitration, State Farm will provide to the arbitrator and policyholder a copy of non-privileged information in the policyholder's claim files, including any and all engineering reports in State Farm's file concerning the inspection of the insured property:
- D. State Farm will pay all costs associated with the arbitration process, except that policyholders are required to pay their own expenses, such as expert and attorney fees;
- E. Any State Farm policyholder who does not wish to submit his or her claim in this resolution process may opt out and retain the right to pursue legal action against State Farm;
- F. During the reevaluation and arbitration process, State Farm will not assert as a ground for the total denial of a settlement claim that water contributed to the policyholder's loss if wind damage occurred. State Farm agrees that on claims for

foundation and pier only sites ("slab" claims), State Farm's offer will be in an amount which, in total, would have a value equivalent to no less than fifty percent (50%) of the Coverage A limits, subject to policy limits and subject to deduction for prior payments, and to be administered pursuant to the terms of a class action settlement. State Farm will not deny any policyholder's structural damage claim unless State Farm can show by a preponderance of the evidence that the damage denied was caused by an excluded peril.

### IV. <u>Claims Practices</u>

- A. State Farm will not knowingly misrepresent to claimants and insureds relevant facts, investigation results, or policy provisions relating to coverages at issue.
- B. State Farm will acknowledge with reasonable promptness pertinent communications with respect to claims arising under its policies.
- C. State Farm will, to the extent it has not previously adopted and implemented, adopt and implement reasonable standards for the prompt investigation and settlement of claims arising under its policies.
- D. State Farm will attempt in good faith to effectuate prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of claims.
- E. State Farm will diligently investigate the facts to determine if a claim is valid, reasonably evaluate the claim, and act promptly in resolving the claim. If it is necessary to reject a claim for coverage or damages, it should be done promptly, courteously, and with an explanation for the decision.
- F. State Farm will make an objective evaluation of the facts and circumstances supporting its insureds' claims.
- G. State Farm will give insureds a reasonable opportunity to comply with their responsibilities under the policy. If a claim is rejected, State Farm will be willing to listen to subsequent input from the insured.
- H. State Farm agrees to comply with the notice provisions of Regulation 2006-2, effective January 1, 2007, addressing flood and earthquake exclusions in homeowners and/or windstorm residential policies.

### V. Payment of Costs to State

A. State Farm shall pay to the Attorney General's Office Five Million Dollars to cover all investigative and legal expenses incurred by said office in the course of this litigation.

### VI. Enforcement Provisions

- A. This Settlement Agreement is intended to resolve all claims against State Farm in this matter and is not intended to resolve any private civil litigation involving State Farm arising out of Hurricane Katrina.
- B. The Attorney General agrees to dismiss all claims against State Farm and to dismiss State Farm as a Defendant in this matter.
- C. State Farm agrees to comply with the conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Any motion, petition, application, action, or proceeding to construe or enforce the resolution procedure described in Section III of this Settlement Agreement will be brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Enforcement of all other conditions set forth herein, except for Section IV, shall be enforceable before this Court. The parties agree to meet and confer if there is any issue regarding compliance with the conditions of this Settlement Agreement before seeking court intervention.
- D. No provision of this Settlement Agreement shall be modified without the written consent of the Attorney General and State Farm.

AGREED, this the 23 adday of January, 2007.

JIM HOOD, ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, EX REL. THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

SHEILA L. BIRNBAUM

ATTORNEY FOR STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY

COMPANY

# Mississippi Katrina Resolution Guideline Tool

are as follows: Potential options for resolution of class member claims for uncompensated/disputed wind/wind driven rain damage for structure, contents, and/or Loss of Lise (additional living expenses/loss of rents/loss of use)

- Each claim will be reviewed based upon the information previously provided by the claimant and any additional information provided in the Katrina Resolution Form. Any information provided will be reviewed on its merits.
- State Farm's representative will review the amounts being claimed in the Katrina Resolution Form. If the amount being claimed is supported by the evidence or is otherwise reasonable, the representative may accept the Settlement Demand.
- If some, but not all, of the amounts being claimed appear to be justified, the representative will review the claim file and information provided by the class member and may make an offer based on the information provided and the criteria in the Agreement. In an effort to resolve the dispute, the offer may be based upon the guidelines set forth in the tool below.
- The amount of the Settlement Offer for the structure, contents, and/or Loss of Use will not exceed the Maximum Payment, as provided in the Agreement.

# Class Resolution Guideline Tool

The damage description categories below contemptate existing demage caused by potentially covered and uncovered causes of loss and are intended as a guide for resolving Settlement Offer guides contemptate payment for damage potentially caused by wind and are intended as a guide for resolving Settlement Claims. They are not necessarily meant to be minimums or maximums, except in the case of foundation and pler only sites, in which case, the percentages below are minimums. The actual percentage offered to settle may be greater than the percentage assigned to each description, to provide the greatest flexibility in the process.

Settlement Offers from this quide will be reduced by the amount of any prior payments under Coverege A. B. or Loss of Use.

	Damage Description Guide (Damage As a Percent of Coverage A I lette)	Structu	Structure Offer Guide As a % of Coverage & Limits	Guide	Conta	nts Offer Gui	Guide	Loss of Us	oes of Use Offer Guide As a	As a % of
Foundation and pier only sites	Absence of strecture on site			35%			6.67%			10%
Total/Constructive Total Damaged Structure	> 60%	υp	3	11%	υp	ਰ	2%	Úр	3	8,0
Severe Damaged Strecture	> 30% to 80%	Up	₹	8%	ဌ	8	1.25%	Ş	3	*
Moderate Damaged Structure	> 10% to 30%	Цŧ	ð	5%	ç	ठ	0.75%	Ş	3	2%
Minor Damage Structure	Up to 10%	Ş	8	2%	ş	8	0.25%	ફ	ö	1%

"Dernage Descriptions" are flexible and State Farm's representative should consider the totality of the circumstances of a particular Settlement Claim.

But in no case shall the offer exceed the Maximum Payment, as defined in the Agreement