

United States District Court Southern District of Florida

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0:04-cv-60573

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Miami Division

Case Number: 04-60573-CIV-MORENO

SEP 1 2005

CLARENCE MADDOX
S.D. OF MAL.

OF MAL.

SECURITIES COMMISSION,

AND EXCHANGE

Plaintiff,

VS.

MUTUAL BENEFITS CORP., et al.,

Defendants,

VIATICAL BENEFACTORS, LLC, et al.,

Relief Defendants.

ORDER ON DISPOSITION OF POLICIES AND PROCEEDS

THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon the Receiver's Motion for Clarification of Order Appointing Receiver Regarding Use of Funds in "Premium Escrow Accounts" (D.E. No. 857), filed on April 6, 2005; the Receiver's Motion to Approve Procedure for Disposition of Policies, Distribution of Proceeds of Policies, and Treatment of Premium Funds (D.E. No. 902), filed on April 22, 2005; Traded Life Policies Limited's Motion to Preclude Receiver's Use of Union Planters' Premium Escrow Accounts for Purposes other than Paying Premium on Union Planters' Policies (D.E. No. 875), filed on April 13, 2005; Life Settlement Holding A.G's Cross-Motion to Preclude Receiver from Using Funds in Union Planters Premium Escrow Accounts for Purposes Other than Paying Premiums on Union Planters' Policies (D.E. No. 895), filed on April 19, 2005, and George R. Kempton's Motion to Provide Purchasers with the Opportunity to Pay Future Premiums (D.E. No. 749), filed on March 4, 2005.

THE COURT has considered the motions, the numerous letters from investors, the objections, the responses, the replies, the supplemental filings, the representations of interested parties at various hearings, and the pertinent portions of the record, and is otherwise fully advised in the premises.

In entering the preliminary injunction, this Court made a preliminary finding of fraud related to the sale of these viatical settlements. Thus, the Court cannot, as one investor suggested, compensate for the shortfall of funds and inaccurate life expectancy predictions by soliciting new investors. The Court understands the concerns of all the investors, but must emphasize that no disposition plan will provide investors with their anticipated returns. Most policies are already past the estimated life expectancy.

As expressed so eloquently in the numerous letters mailed to the Court and in the papers filed in this matter, the vast majority of investors would like to have a choice regarding the ultimate disposition of their interests. Thus, the Court must choose a plan that will maximize returns while also providing investors with a voice in the ultimate disposition of the policies and proceeds. Examining other courts' decisions in similar cases, and after considering all the information provided by the interested parties, the Court concludes that the following plan provides the most equitable result for all of the concerned parties.

- 1. <u>All</u> investors will be provided with the opportunity to indicate their preference regarding the disposition of their interests. Accordingly, each investor will be able to indicate whether she desires: (a) to consent to sale of her interest by the Receiver; (b) to retain or take over her interest in the policy and assume responsibility for payment of her share of premiums, including those premiums paid past life expectancy; or (c) to allow her interest to lapse.
 - 2. During the administration of the disposition procedure, premiums will continue to be

paid for all policies from the premium escrow accounts.¹ For those policies not beyond life expectancy at disposition, premiums will continue to be paid from the premium escrow accounts through life expectancy. For those policies beyond life expectancy at the time of disposition, premiums paid past life expectancy will either be: (a) recovered when the policies are sold; or (b) recovered by imposing a surcharge in addition to premium payments if the investors choose to retain or take over their interests in a policy.

- 3. Viatical Services, Inc. shall serve as the viatical services administrator for all interests retained by investors. The notice to investors will indicate the amount of administration fees to be charged by VSI.
- 4. For policies in which multiple investors hold interests, the majority of the interest of those voting will determine the disposition of the policy. If investors vote to retain or take over their interests (and payment of premiums and management fees) in a policy, dissenting investors who wish to sell their interests will be addressed in the following manner. First, the Receiver will submit the dissenter's interest for auction to other investors. If the interest is purchased, the proceeds of the sale (minus expenses) will be paid to the selling investor. If no investors purchase the interest, the Receiver will next seek to reduce the face value of the policy to reduce the premium obligation. Finally, if reduction in face value is not possible, the Receiver will provide notice to the other investors indicating that they must take over the dissenter's premium obligation (each taking over a share proportionate to their relative interests in the policy), or the policy will be sold. If the investors take over the premium obligation, the dissenter's interest in the death benefits will be diluted to

¹ In an order issued last week, the Court ruled that the interest in the premium escrow accounts will be used to fund Receivership operations.

compensate the other investors for their additional premium obligations.

5. Matured death benefits shall be distributed to the investors who hold or have a right to interests in the policies. Any interest on the death benefits will be distributed to investors on a *pro* rata basis.

6. The parties shall submit joint proposed notice forms no later than September 30, 2005. In the event that the parties are not able to achieve consensus on the proposed notice, each party may submit individual proposed notice forms along with a short memorandum in support of the party's proposed notice.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida, this day of September, 2005.

FEDERICO A. MORENO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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