

AFFIDAVIT – AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY

State of New York)
):ss:
County of Erie)

I, Kevin Riford, being duly sworn, under oath, deposes and states the following under the penalties of perjury:

1. That on October 12, 2023, I contacted American Surety Company (hereinafter ‘ASC’) via phone to inquire about the authenticity of Power of Attorney AS500 101063 that was provided to me by the Hartland Town Court. I suspected that the document was fraudulent, and after my independent investigation into the matter, I determined that the power of attorney document provided to me by the court was more than likely fraudulent.
2. On October 12, 2023, I talked to ASC employee Erin Smith via phone. I provided Ms. Smith the unique power of attorney number “101063”, to which she responded that the power of attorney was “voided on our end”, that it was “issued in 2018 and expired in 2019”, and that it was “issued to a company in Connecticut.” Ms. Smith also asked me for the defendant's name, which I provided – “Katie Riford”. Upon providing the name Katie Riford, Ms. Smith stated "we don't have her in our system.”
3. On October 12, 2023, during the same aforementioned phone conversation, Ms. Smith indicated I could email the power of attorney document to the company to verify the authenticity of the power of attorney document.
4. On October 12, 2023, I emailed the ASC¹. The email contained the Power of Attorney document provided to me by the court on August 8, 2023, as well as the conversation

¹ October 12, 2023, email to ASC (1 pg.) – EXHIBIT A

between me and Erin Smith.² Specifically, I emailed ASC President William Carmichael, Paul J. Longstreth (CFO), Michael J. Whitlock (Secretary & Treasurer), and Daniel R. Amato (Executive Vice President). My email was never responded to.

5. On October 26, 2023, I again called ASC to verify authenticity of Power of Attorney AS500 101063 that was provided to me by the Hartland Town Court, as my email to ASC employees was never addressed. I talked to employee Melissa Adams, who confirmed to me that the Power of Attorney was voided and issued to a company in Connecticut. Upon asking additional questions, she transferred me to ASC Vice President Gary Logue. Mr. Logue picked up the phone and I proceeded to ask him my question. Ms. Logue proceeded to answer and then followed up by asking who he was speaking to. I stated, "I am a resident of New York State." Mr. Logue then stated, "If I did not tell him my name, he was going to end the conversation." I told Mr. Logue I would tell him my name to which Mr. Logue responded by hanging up the phone. I promptly called back Mr. Logue at his direct extension; however, he did not pick up. Subsequently, I also called ASC employee Melissa Adam's direct extension and she also did not pick up the phone.
6. My sister, Katie Riford, emailed ASC on October 23, 2023.³ The email was in regard to verifying the authenticity of ASC power of attorney AS500 101063.
7. That on October 27, 2023, ASC Vice President Gary Logue responded to Katie Riford's email with the following statement: "This matter was referred to me for investigation and your specific email was sent to me for response. My investigation determined the document in question is not an American Surety Company issued undertaking. I have attached the documents related to and supporting my conclusion."⁴
8. The October 27, 2023, email sent from Gary Logue to Katie Riford contained one PDF attachment which contained 5 documents. These documents were:

² Power of attorney attachment (1pg.) – EXHIBIT B

³ Katie Riford - October 23, 2023 - Email to American Surety Company (1 pg.) – EXHIBIT C

⁴ Gary Logue - October 27, 2023 - Email to Katie Riford (1pg.) – EXHIBIT D

- American Surety Letter dated October 25, 2023 (2 pages).⁵
 - Copy of power of attorney document AS500 101063 provided by the Town of Hartland Court (1 page), which was determined to be fraudulent.⁶
 - A copy of the authentic power of attorney document AS500 101063 provided by American Surety company which was voided in May 2019. (1 page)⁷
 - Two other documents which appear to be examples of legitimate/non-fraudulent ASC power of attorneys (2 pages).⁸
9. It should be noted that the top portion of the copies of the power of attorney that the Town of Hartland Court provided to me on August 8, 2023, and October 12, 2023, were cut off at the top, obstructing the listing of the unique security verification features of the power of attorney. The copy of the power of attorney document provided to the American Surety Company from the Town of Hartland Court contains the full power of attorney, with no cut-offs, and clearly shows the unique security features.
10. The ASC letter dated October 25, 2023, states in part “ASC’s investigation quickly concluded that the bond information provided by the court is not, in fact, a valid bond and was not issued by American Surety Company.”
11. Upon information and belief, the Town of Hartland Court (Joanne Sullivan and Trinity Doepp) have engaged in fraud and have actively worked to conceal the top portion of the power of attorney from me and my family, which contains the unique security features of the bond, and would immediately indicate that the power of attorney was fraudulent.

⁵ American Surety Letter dated October 25, 2023 (2 pages) – EXHIBIT E

⁶ Copy of power of attorney document AS500 101063 provided by the court (1 page), which was determined by ASC to be fraudulent – EXHIBIT F

⁷ A copy of the authentic power of attorney document AS500 101063 provided by American Surety company which was voided in May 2019 – EXHIBIT G

⁸ Two other documents which appear to be examples of legitimate/non-fraudulent ASC power of attorneys – EXHIBIT H



Kevin Riford
3038 Michael Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Sworn to before me this 1 day of November 2023 by


NOTARY PUBLIC FOR NEW YORK

VICTORIA MARIE RETZLAFF
Notary Public, State of New York
Registration # 01RE6350352
Qualified in Monroe County
My Commission expires 11/07/2024

EXHIBIT A

Verify authenticity of Power of Attorney - Kevin Riford

From Kevin Riford <kevinriford4@protonmail.com>
To wcarmichael@asc-usi.com
CC plongstreth@asc-usi.com, mwhitlock@asc-usi.com, damato@asc-usi.com
Date Thursday, October 12th, 2023 at 4:11 PM

Dear William Carmichael,

I had a conversation today with Erin Smith regarding verifying the authenticity of a Power of Attorney document. According to the document titled AS500 with unique number 101063, this Power of attorney was issued on May 30, 2023, for defendant Katie Riford. I have attached a copy of the aforementioned document.

Upon asking Ms. Smith to verify the (\$) amount, she stated that this power of attorney "was voided on our end" and that it was "issued in 2018 and expired in 2019". Ms. Smith also stated that it was "issued to a company in Connecticut". Ms. Smith did say "it could be a rewrite". I replied with "wouldn't the rewrite be in the system". Ms. Smith then proceeded with asking me for the defendant's name, which I provided - Katie Riford. Upon providing the name Katie Riford, Ms. Smith stated "we don't have her in our system".

I have attached both the American Surety Company Power of Attorney document and the conversation with Ms. Smith and I. **Please verify the authenticity of this document.**

Sincerely,

Kevin Riford

CC: Paul J. Longstreth, CFO, Secretary & Treasurer
Michael J. Whitlock, Executive Vice President
Daniel R. Amato, Vice President

ENC: Copy of American Surety Power of Attorney AS500 with unique number 101063
Conversation with Ms. Erin Smith

19.59 MB 2 files attached

American Surety Company - Power of Attorney - AS500 101063.pdf 13.06 MB Conversation with Erin Smith.mp3 6.52 MB

EXHIBIT B

POWER AMOUNT \$500,000 VOID IF NOT EXECUTED BY:

POWER OF ATTORNEY

JUL 23 2024 American Surety Company

AS500 101063

P.O. Box 68932, Indianapolis, IN 46268

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, does constitute and appoint the below named agent its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact for it and in its name, place and stead, to execute, and deliver for and on its behalf, as surety, a bail bond only.

Authority of such Attorney-in-Fact is limited to appearance bonds. No authority is provided herein for the execution of surety immigration bonds or to guarantee alimony payments, fines, wage law claims or other payments of any kind on behalf of below named defendant. The named agent is appointed only to execute the bond consistent with the terms of this power of attorney. The agent is not authorized to act as agent for receipt of service of process in any criminal or civil action.

This power is void if altered or erased or used in any combination with other powers of attorney of this company or any other company to obtain the release of the defendant named below or to satisfy any bond requirement in excess of the stated face amount of this power. This power can only be used once. No authority is provided to a copy or facsimile of this power of attorney without the prior written consent of American Surety Company. The obligation of the company shall not exceed the sum of

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS

and provided this Power-Of-Attorney is filed with the bond and retained as a part of the court records. The said Attorney-In-Fact is hereby authorized to insert in this Power-Of-Attorney the name of the person on whose behalf this bond was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, proper for the purpose and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this 30th day of May, 2023.

Bond Amount \$100,000 Appearance Date 6/13/2023 @ 10AM

Defendant: KATIE RIFORD

Court: TOWN OF HAMILAND Case # 22120026

County: MACARA City: HARTSWELL St. NY Zip: 14067

Offense: PL 135.45-01

Executing Agent: [Signature]

AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY



William B. Carmichael

President

ASC-9J

EXHIBIT C

From: Katie L. Riford
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 4:08 PM
To: ejamison@asc-usi.com <ejamison@asc-usi.com>
Subject: American Surety Company: Power of Attorney Document

Dear American Surety Company employee Ms. Earon Jamison,

Can you please verify the authenticity of the "Power of Attorney" document from American Surety Company -- AS500 101063 for defendant Katie Riford, which is shown below.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this time-sensitive matter.

Sincerely,

Katie L. Riford

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| POWER AMOUNT \$500,000 | VOID IF NOT EXECUTED BY: JUL 23 2024 | POWER OF ATTORNEY American Surety Company P.O. Box 88932, Indianapolis, IN 46288 | AS500 101063 |
|---------------------------|--|---|--------------|

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, does constitute and appoint the below named agent its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact for it and in its name, place and stead, to execute, and deliver for and on its behalf, as surety, a bail bond only.

Authority of such Attorney-in-Fact is limited to appearance bonds. No authority is provided herein for the execution of surety immigration bonds or to guarantee alimony payments, fines, wage law claims or other payments of any kind on behalf of below named defendant. The named agent is appointed only to execute the bond consistent with the terms of this power of attorney. The agent is not authorized to act as agent for receipt of service of process in any criminal or civil action.

This power is void if altered or erased or used in any combination with other powers of attorney of this company or any other company to obtain the release of the defendant named below or to satisfy any bond requirement in excess of the stated face amount of this power. This power can only be used once. No authority is provided to a copy or facsimile of this power of attorney without the prior written consent of American Surety Company. The obligation of the company shall not exceed the sum of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS

and provided this Power-Of-Attorney is filed with the bond and retained as a part of the court records. The said Attorney-in-Fact is hereby authorized to insert in this Power-Of-Attorney the name of the person on whose behalf this bond was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, proper for the purpose and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this 30th day of MAY, 2023

Bond Amount \$ 100,000 Appearance Date 6/13/2023 @ 10AM

Defendant: KATIE RIFORD

Court: TOWN OF HAMILAND Case # 22120026

County: NIAGARA City: HARTWELL St. NY Zip 14067

Offense: PL 135.45-01 NP

Executing Agent: [Signature] NP

AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY

William B. Cunningham
President ASC-9J

SEAL
INDIANA

the

EXHIBIT D

From: Logue, Gary <glogue@asc-usi.com>

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 3:23:16 PM

To: katie [REDACTED]

Cc: Longstreth, P.J. <pjlongstreth@asc-usi.com>; Smith, Erin <esmith@asc-usi.com>

Subject: RE: American Surety Company: Power of Attorney Document - My File C31008-2023-018

Ms. Katie L. Riford:

This matter was referred to me for investigation and your specific email was sent to me for response. My investigation determined the document in question is not an American Surety Company issued undertaking. I have attached the documents related to and supporting my conclusion.

Respectfully,

Gary Logue, Vice President

American Surety Company- Underwriters Surety, Inc.

Telephone: 317-860-1897

Direct Facsimile: 317-819-3863

glogue@asc-usi.com

EXHIBIT E



October 25, 2023

Honorable Joanne Sullivan
Town of Hartland Court
8942 Ridge Road
Gosport, New York 14067

Re: AS500-101063, Karen Riford, Case # 22120026

Dear Honorable Judge Sullivan,

Our office was contacted on October 12, 2023, by an individual identifying himself as Kevin Riford. Mr. Riford was inquiring regarding an alleged bond – AS500-101063, Case # 22120026 - posted for defendant Katie Riford. The matter was referred to me for investigation. ASC was further contacted via email by an individual identifying herself as Katie Riford inquiring regarding the same case/bond.

We contacted the court and spoke with Court Clerk Trinity Doepp on October 17 to inquire regarding the Court's documentation. At that time Ms. Doepp provided documents relating to the bond posting. ASC's investigation quickly concluded that the bond information provided by the court is not, in fact, a valid bond and was not issued by American Surety Company. ASC pointed out to Ms. Doepp the security features that could be used to confirm that the validity of the bond including, but not limited to, heat sensitive ink in the signature block, the colored blue security background, micro printing, and watermark on the reverse side of the bond power of attorney. Language is also included along the top of the bond indicating: "THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED SECURITY BACKGROUND AND MICRO PRINTING – THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A WATERMARK THIS DOCUMENT IS VOID IF THE PINK HEAT SENSITIVE INK BOX IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER DOES NOT DISAPPEAR WHEN RUBBED WITH WARM HANDS". In addition, ASC provided pictures of a valid bond power of attorney including the above referenced features. Ms. Doepp confirmed that the alleged bond power did not include the features and ASC indicated that the bond was not valid. At that time, to protect ASC and the Court, we requested that Ms. Doepp search for any other pending cases on which an alleged ASC bond power may have been accepted by the Court. Ms. Doepp noted one other case and noted that the bond power relating to that case did have the security features described

Visit us on the web at www.asc-usi.com

email: info@asc-usi.com

250 E. 96th St., Ste. 202 • Indianapolis, IN 46240
P.O. Box 68932 • Indianapolis, IN 46268

Phone: (317) 875-8700
FAX: (317) 875-0859

October 25, 2023

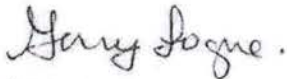
above.

This letter formally confirms to the Court that Katie Riford's appearance in the case in question is not, and was not at any time, guaranteed by American Surety Company. ASC intends to report this fraudulent activity to the New York Department of Financial Services.

ASC encourages the Court to exercise diligence in its acceptance of such documents and further encourages the court to reach out to the company should the legitimacy of any ASC documents be in question.

Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-Mail, glogue@asc-usi.com or direct line, 317-860-1897.

Respectfully,



Gary Logue
Vice President

Cc: P.J. Longstreth, ASC CFO, Secretary & Treasurer

Erin Smith, ASC Executive Assistant
Nelson Robles, Affordable Bails New York, Inc.

EXHIBIT F

THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED SECURITY BACKGROUND AND MICRO PRINTING. THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A WATERMARK. THIS DOCUMENT IS VOID IF THE PINK HEAT SENSITIVE INK BOX IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER DOES NOT DISAPPEAR WHEN RUBBED WITH WARM HANDS.

POWER AMOUNT \$500,000
VOID IF NOT EXECUTED BY

POWER OF ATTORNEY

JUL 23 2024 American Surety Company

AS500 10 10 63

P.O. Box 68932, Indianapolis, IN 46288

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, does constitute and appoint the below named agent its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact for it and in its name, place and stead, to execute, and deliver for and on its behalf, as surety, a bail bond only.

Authority of such Attorney-in-Fact is limited to appearance bonds. No authority is provided herein for the execution of surety immigration bonds or to guarantee alimony payments, fines, wage law claims or other payments of any kind on behalf of below named defendant. The named agent is appointed only to execute the bond consistent with the terms of this power of attorney. The agent is not authorized to act as agent for receipt of service of process in any criminal or civil action. This power is void if altered or erased or used in any combination with other powers of attorney of this company or any other company to obtain the release of the defendant named below or to satisfy any bond requirement in excess of the stated face amount of this power. This power can only be used once. No authority is provided to a copy or facsimile of this power of attorney without the prior written consent of American Surety Company. The obligation of the company shall not exceed the sum of

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS

and provided this Power-Of-Attorney is filed with the bond and retained as a part of the court records. The said Attorney-In-Fact is hereby authorized to insert in this Power-Of-Attorney the name of the person on whose behalf this bond was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, proper for the purpose and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this 30th day of MAY, 2023.

Bond Amount \$100,000 Appearance Date 6/13/2023 @ 10AM

Defendant: KATIE RIFORD

Court: TOWN OF HARLAND Case # 22120026

County: NIAGARA City: HARLAND St. NY Zip: 14067

Offense: PL 135.45-01

Executing Agent: [Signature]

MP
MP



AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY

William B. Carmichael

President

ASC 9J 96

EXHIBIT G

THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED SECURITY BACKGROUND AND MICRO PRINTING - THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A WATERMARK
THIS DOCUMENT IS VOID IF THE PINK HEAT SENSITIVE INK BOX IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER DOES NOT DISAPPEAR WHEN RUBBED WITH WARM HANDS

POWER AMOUNT \$500,000
VOID IF NOT EXECUTED BY

MAY 20 2019

POWER OF ATTORNEY

American Surety Company

AS500 101063

P.O. Box 68932, Indianapolis, IN 46268

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, does constitute and appoint the below named agent its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact for it and in its name, place and stead, to execute, and deliver for and on its behalf, as surety, a bail bond only.

Authority of such Attorney-in-Fact is limited to appearance bonds. No authority is provided herein for the execution of surety immigration bonds or to guarantee alimony payments, fines, wage law claims or other payments of any kind on behalf of below named defendant. The named agent is appointed only to execute the bond consistent with the terms of this power of attorney. The agent is not authorized to act as agent for receipt of service of process in any criminal or civil action.

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FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS

and provided this Power-Of-Attorney is filed with the bond and retained as a part of the court records. The said Attorney-In-Fact is hereby authorized to insert in this Power-Of-Attorney the name of the person on whose behalf this bond was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, proper for the purpose and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Bond Amount \$ _____ Appearance Date _____

Defendant: _____

Court _____ Case # _____

County _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Offense _____ MP

Executing Agent _____ MP



AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY

William B. Carmichael

President

ASC-91

5/14/2019 10:52:03 PM Batch: 736732

EXHIBIT H

THE FACE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED SECURITY BACKGROUND AND MICRO PRINTING - THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS A WATERMARK
THIS DOCUMENT IS VOID IF THE PINK HEAT SENSITIVE INK BOX IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER DOES NOT DISAPPEAR WHEN RUBBED WITH WARM HANDS

POWER AMOUNT \$500,000
VOID IF NOT EXECUTED BY:

POWER OF ATTORNEY
American Surety Company

AS500 102023

P.O. Box 68932, Indianapolis, IN 46268

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY, a corporation duly authorized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana, does constitute and appoint the below named agent its true and lawful Attorney-in-Fact for it and in its name, place and stead, to execute, and deliver for and on its behalf, as surety, a bail bond only.

Authority of such Attorney-in-Fact is limited to appearance bonds. No authority is provided herein for the execution of surety immigration bonds or to guarantee alimony payments, fines, wage law claims or other payments of any kind on behalf of below named defendant. The named agent is appointed only to execute the bond consistent with the terms of this power of attorney. The agent is not authorized to act as agent for receipt of service of process in any criminal or civil action.

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FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$500,000.00) DOLLARS

and provided this Power-Of-Attorney is filed with the bond and retained as a part of the court records. The said Attorney-In-Fact is hereby authorized to insert in this Power-Of-Attorney the name of the person on whose behalf this bond was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, proper for the purpose and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Bond Amount \$ _____ Appearance Date _____

Defendant: _____

Court _____ Case # _____

County _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Offense _____ MP

Executing Agent _____ MP



AMERICAN SURETY COMPANY

William B. Carmichael

President

ASC-9J

POWER AMOUNT \$500,000
100% NOT EXECUTED BY

REMARKS

HOME OFFICE COPY

AS500 102023