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Press Release

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Alaska Division of Insurance Streamlines Insurance Communications

With the aim of increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness, Lori Wing-Heier, director of the Alaska Division of Insurance, issued an order relating to the use of electronic transactions and communications in the business of insurance.

Wing-Heier issued the order earlier this week after holding a public hearing and soliciting public comments. "We received a very positive response on our initiative to increase the efficiency of communicating, both between us and the regulated industry, and between the regulated industry and consumers. We fully expect that the greater use of electronic transactions and communications in the business of insurance will reduce our costs as well as the costs to insurers, licensees and consumers."

The regulatory order identified over 60 statutory provisions in the insurance code where the use of electronic means for insurance business transactions and communications were appropriate. The list of statutory provisions were developed through a coordinated team effort led by Marty Hester, deputy director of the division, involving the division's administrative, property and casualty, life and health, and financial staff, with the assistance of the Department of Law.

The director issued the order under the authority of Alaska Statute (AS) 21.96.080, a provision where the legislature granted the director the authority to provide for the electronic transmission of any information or written communication under the insurance code.

The regulatory order may be viewed on the division's website at <http://commerce.state.ak.us/dnn/ins/home.aspx> or obtained by contacting the division by email at insurance@alaska.gov or by calling the division at 269-7900 (Anchorage) or 465-2515 (Juneau).

Alaska's Division of Insurance, along with the Division of Banking and Securities; the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing; the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, are tasked with protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and its agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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