

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF HEARING OFFICERS**

DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant,

v.

IGOR PETER KISLITSA
(CRD No. 6324794),

Respondent.

Disciplinary Proceeding
No. 2020067014602

Hearing Officer—LOM

**ORDER REJECTING RESPONDENT'S SUBMISSION
AND
REQUIRING RESPONDENT TO FILE RULE-COMPLIANT ANSWER**

The Department of Enforcement commenced this disciplinary proceeding against Respondent Igor P. Kislitsa on November 30, 2021, with the filing and service of a Notice of Complaint and Complaint. The Complaint alleged that Respondent had failed to provide documents and information requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210.

Respondent did not file an Answer with the Office of Hearing Officers, although he contacted Enforcement by email in late December. In his email to Enforcement, Respondent purported to provide the information requested pursuant to Rule 8210. He also asserted that he had a reason he did not provide the information earlier—a motorcycle accident that required a long recovery. Enforcement told him that he still had to file an Answer, and on January 4, 2022, issued a second Notice of Complaint along with the Complaint. Respondent still did not file an Answer, so Enforcement filed a motion for default.

While the motion for default was pending, I held a Pre-Hearing Conference (“PHC”) on March 17, 2022. FINRA Rule 9215(a) permits a Hearing Officer to extend the period for filing and serving an Answer for good cause. For the reasons discussed at the PHC, I gave Respondent another two weeks to file a proper Answer. I treated the motion for default as held in abeyance.

I reiterated at the PHC that, in a proper Answer, Respondent must admit or deny the facts in each numbered paragraph of the Complaint or state that he does not have sufficient information to do so. Respondent confirmed that he had the Complaint in front of him and understood what was required. When Enforcement filed the Complaint, the Office of Hearing Officers had sent Respondent what is titled a “Code and Guide Letter.” It stated that under FINRA Rule 9215 the “Answer must state for each allegation in the Complaint whether you

admit the allegation, deny the allegation, or do not have and are unable to obtain sufficient information to admit or deny the allegation.”

Respondent's Answer was due on March 31, 2022. As the deadline approached, Respondent informed the Office of Hearing Officers that he intended to file his Answer by the deadline but that he wanted to send a substantial volume of exhibits as well. As instructed in the Code and Guide Letter, he was to make his submission in PDF format.

On March 31, 2022, Respondent made a submission through a secure platform. In that submission, Respondent did not address the specific allegations in the Complaint. Instead, he appears to have responded to numbered requests for information and documents pursuant to Rule 8210. Respondent attempted to file a set of exhibits in further response to the Rule 8210 requests and a narrative explanation of the circumstances of his termination by his former FINRA member firm. Respondent sent the exhibits by email from a platform blocked by FINRA's security features. As a result, I am unable to access them.¹

Respondent's submission is not a proper Answer that conforms to FINRA's rules. It is not accepted for filing.

Respondent is instructed to submit a rule-compliant Answer no later than 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday, April 4, 2022. As provided in FINRA Rule 9215(b), the Answer “shall specifically admit, deny, or state that the Respondent does not have and is unable to obtain sufficient information to admit or deny, each allegation in the complaint.” The Answer should be one PDF document submitted by email to OHOCASEFILINGS@FINRA.ORG without any accompanying exhibits. It is not required for Respondent to mail hard copies of his Answer or any other documents to the Office of Hearing Officers.

Respondent may submit his exhibits, which are too voluminous to be included in an email. If he does submit exhibits, they should be filed and served as complete documents in PDF format through the secure portal, as Respondent was previously instructed.

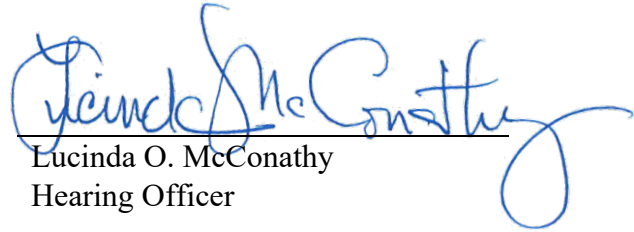
This is Respondent's fourth opportunity to file a proper Answer. If Respondent fails to file a rule-compliant Answer on April 4, under FINRA Rules 9215(f) and 9269 I may hold Respondent in default, deem the allegations in the Complaint admitted, and issue a default decision.

¹ Respondent's submission consisted of over 140 individual pages in .PNG format.

This Order has been published by FINRA's Office of Hearing Officers and should be cited as OHO Order 22-07 (2020067014602).

Any questions about this Order should be directed to Case Administrator Kate Shaffer, who can be reached at 202-728-8113 or kate.shaffer@finra.org.

SO ORDERED.


Lucinda O. McConathy
Hearing Officer

Dated: April 1, 2022

Copies to:

Igor P. Kislitsa (via first-class mail, FedEx, and email)
Yah Demann, Esq. (via email)
Loyd Gattis, Esq. (via email)
Jennifer L. Crawford, Esq. (via email)