

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §33-41-12

## **§33-41-12. Civil and criminal penalties; injunctive relief; employment disqualification; restitution.**

(a) A person or entity engaged in the business of insurance or a person or entity making a claim against an insurer who violates any provision of this article may be subject to the following:

(1) Where applicable, suspension or revocation of license or certificate of authority or a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation, or where applicable, both. Suspension or revocation of license or certificate of authority or imposition of civil penalties may be pursuant to an order of the commissioner issued pursuant to the provisions of §33-2-13 of this code. The commissioner's order may require a person found to be in violation of this article to make reasonable restitution to persons aggrieved by violations of this article. The commissioner may assess a person sanctioned pursuant to the provisions of this section the cost of investigation;

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a civil penalty imposed pursuant to the provisions of this section is mandatory and not subject to suspension;

(3) A person convicted of a felony violation law reasonably related to the business of insurance shall be disqualified from engaging in the business of insurance; and

(4) The commissioner may apply for a temporary or permanent injunction in any appropriate circuit court of this state seeking to enjoin and restrain a person from violating or continuing to violate the provisions of this article or rule promulgated under this article, notwithstanding the existence of other remedies at law. The circuit court shall have jurisdiction of the proceeding and have the power to make and enter an order or judgment awarding temporary or permanent injunctive relief restraining any person from violating or continuing to violate any provision of this article or rule promulgated under the article as in its judgment is proper.

(b) Any person who commits a violation of the provisions of §33-41-11 of this code where the benefit sought is \$1,000 or more in value is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a correctional facility for not less than one nor more than 10 years, fined not more than \$10,000, or both fined and imprisoned, or in the discretion of the court, confined in jail for not more than one year and fined not more than \$10,000, or both fined and confined.

(c) Any person who commits a violation of the provisions of §33-41-11 of this code where the benefit sought is less than \$1,000 in value is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not more than one year, or fined not more than \$2,500, or both fined and confined.

(d) Any person convicted of a violation of §33-41-11 of this code is subject to the restitution provisions of §61-11A-1 of this code.

(e) A court may award to the unit or other law-enforcement agency investigating a violation of §33-41-11 of this code or other criminal offense related to the business of insurance its cost of investigation.

(f) In addition to the provisions of this section, the offenses enumerated in §61-3-24e through §61-3-24h, inclusive, of this code are applicable to matters concerning workers' compensation insurance.