	Case 3:23-cv-00164-LRH-CSD Docum	ent 1	Filed 04/18/23	Page 1 of 15					
1 2 3 4	Pamela A. McKay (SBN 7812) MCKAY LAW FIRM, CHTD. 8440 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 112 Las Vegas, NV 89128 Phone: 702-835-6956 Fax: 702- 835-6957 pmckay@mckaylawfirmchtd.com								
5 6	Attorneys for Plaintiff ATAIN SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY								
7 8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEVADA								
9 10	ATAIN SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, a Michigan corporation,) Cas	se No.						
11	Plaintiff,)							
12 13 14 15 16 17	v. KARANS, LLC D/B/A HAPPY DAYZE CIGAR & SMOKE, a Nevada limited liability company; and KN GROUP, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, Defendants.)))))							
18	COMPLAINT FOR DECLA	<u>COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGEMENT</u>							
19	The Plaintiff, ATAIN SPECIALTY INS	URAN	ICE COMPANY	("Atain"), a foreign					
20	insurance company, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 and FED. R. CIV. P. 57, files this complaint fo								
21	declaratory judgment against Defendants, KARANS, LLC d/b/a HAPPY DAYZE CIGAR &								
22	SMOKE ("Happy Dayze") and KN GROUP, LLC	, both	Nevada limited lia	bility companies, and					
23	states:								
24	<u>NATURE OF</u>	ACTI	ON						
25	1. Atain requests that the Court issu	e a ju	dgment pursuant	to 28 U.S.C. § 2201					
26	declaring that Atain Policy CIP417114 issued to Karans, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze Cigar &								
27	Smoke for the period of November 20, 2021 to November 20, 2022 (the "Policy"), a certifie								
28	copy of which is attached as Exhibit A , excludes F	roduct	s-Completed Oper	rations, and declaring					

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that Atain has no duty under the Policy to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in the underlying lawsuit entitled Paul A. Valente, individually and as Special Administrator of the Estate of Michelle Horning Valente, deceased and Michael R. Kich, as natural father and legal guardian of KMK and KNK, minors v. CKL Sales, LLC d/b/a Smok'n Ray's Smoke Shop; KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze Cigar and Smoke Shop; Fisher Botanicals, LLC; Shaman Supplies, Inc.; Kono Labs d/b/a Whole Herbs; Does I-V, Case No. 22-01705 (Washoe County, Nevada) (the "Valente Litigation" or "Valente Complaint").

2. Atain seeks a declaratory judgment to determine an actual controversy between the parties regarding insurance coverage under the Policy for the *Valente* Litigation.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because this dispute arises between citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

4. This Court has authority to grant Atain declaratory relief pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, and FED. R. CIV. P. 57.

5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the *Valente* Litigation and the insurance coverage dispute between Atain and Happy Dayze concerning the *Valente* Litigation occurred in this district, and the Defendant, Happy Dayze, is domiciled in this district.

THE PARTIES

6. Atain is a Michigan corporation with its principal place of business in Oakland County, Michigan. Atain is a Michigan surplus lines insurer, and is engaged in the business of selling insurance in Nevada.

7. Karans, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company formed under the laws of Nevada, with its sole member and manager and registered agent Surinder Preet being a citizen of Nevada, and with its principal place of business in Nevada and its retail tobacco store located at 1700 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. None of Karans, LLC's members are citizens of Michigan.

8. KN Group, LLC is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a limited liability company formed under the laws of Nevada, with its member and manager and registered agent Surinder Preet being a citizen of Nevada, and with its principal place of business in Nevada in connection with the ownership and/or management of the retail property located at 1700 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. None of KN Group, LLC's members are citizens of Michigan.

THE VALENTE LITIGATION

9. The *Valene* Litigation arises from an incident on or about January 8, 2022 in which the Decedent, Michelle Horning Valente (the "Decedent"), purportedly died of a Kratom overdose. Valente allegedly consumed Kratom powder purchased from Happy Dayze on the date of her death.

10. On October 19, 2022, Valente's surviving spouse and minor children (hereafter, the "Estate") filed the *Valente* Complaint seeking damages based on theories of wrongful death and survival, a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit B**.

11. In the *Valente* Complaint, the Estate alleges that on the day of her death, the Decedent was taking Kratom manufactured, distributed, marketed and sold by Happy Dayze, among others. **Ex. B**, ¶ 13.

12. On January 8, 2022, the Estate alleges that the Decedent reported to work at approximately 1:00 p.m. to begin making her rounds inspecting vacation homes and ensuring they were properly prepared for guest arrivals. **Ex. B**, \P 15.

13. The Estate alleges that a man walking his dog found the Decedent laying face up in the snow beside her car. **Ex. B**, ¶ 15.

14. The Estate alleges that the Decedent was pronounced dead at the scene after paramedics exhausted resuscitation efforts. **Ex. B**, ¶ 16.

15. The Estate alleges that the autopsy and toxicological exam later identified the sole cause of death as acute mitragynine toxicity—the active ingredient in Kratom. *Id.*

16. The Estate further alleges that Happy Dayze marketed Kratom to the Decedent as a dietary supplement with an array of potential benefits, including as an energy drink. Ex. B, ¶
14.

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17. The Estate alleges that it is illegal to sell or market Kratom as a drug or dietary supplement in the United States because it is not Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved. **Ex. B**, ¶ 17.

18. The Estate alleges that the FDA banned importing and marketing Kratom in the United States in 2012. **Ex. B**, ¶ 17.

19. The Estate alleges that Happy Dayze advertised and sold Kratom products as "safe", "beneficial", and intended for treatment of pain, anxiety and other health problems. Ex. **B**, ¶ 18.

20. The Estate further alleges that Happy Dayze failed to warn of its potentially addictive properties or regarding how much an individual can safely consume. **Ex. B**, ¶ 18.

21. The Estate also alleges that the FDA issues guidance describing such advertisements for Kratom products as "Health Fraud Scams" and the sale of such products as a violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Ex. B, ¶ 19

22. The Estate alleges that several accredited medical authorities including the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New England Journal of Medicine, and the Mayo Clinic warn that any alleged benefits of Kratom "are significantly outweighed by the side effects and risks, including death." **Ex. B**, ¶¶ 20-23.

23. The Estate alleges that Happy Dayze:

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- (a) knowingly marketed and sold an unreasonably dangerous product to customers;
- "made no effort to warn Decedent of the toxic and deadly risks associated (b) with Kratom"
- sold Kratom in packaging that promoted the product as "organic and non-(c) gmo" and
- sold Kratom in packaging that contained no instructions regarding dosage; (d) and

sold Kratom without any warnings regarding its potentially deadly effects. (e) **Ex. B**, ¶¶ 24-25. 28

24. The Estate alleges that Happy Dayze proximately caused the Decedent's death. **Ex. B**, ¶¶ 26, 29, 32, 34.

25. The Estate seeks wrongful death and survival damages to fairly and reasonably compensate the Estate for any and all pecuniary damages for each person's grief and sorrow, loss of probable support, companionship, society, comfort and consortium, and damages for pain, suffering or disfigurement of the Decedent. Ex. B, ¶ 35.

26. The Estate also seeks special damages, including, but not limited to medical expenses incurred and sustained before the Decedent's death, funeral and burial expenses, past and future lost wages of the Decedent, as well as any penalties, including, but not limited to exemplary or punitive damages, that the Decedent could have recovered if the Decedent had lived. **Ex. B**, ¶¶ 36-37.

27. In addition, the Estate seeks exemplary damages in connection with Happy Dayze's conduct which it asserts "involved both malice and oppression either expressly or implied." **Ex. B**, ¶ 37.

THE ATAIN POLICY

28. Atain issued Policy No. CIP417114 to Karans LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze for the policy period of November 20, 2021 to November 20, 2022 which includes a Commercial General Liability coverage part subject to a \$1 million limit per occurrence and a \$2 million aggregate limit of insurance.

29. A certified copy of the Policy is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

30. The Policy is subject to a \$500 per claim deductible.

31. The Policy provides a "Business Description" of Happy Dayze as "Smoke Shop and Accessories", with the assigned "Class Code" as 18708 for "Tobacco Products Stores."

32. The Policy provides the Designated Premises is located at 1700 Victorian Ave, Sparks, NV 89431.

33. The Policy provides Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability Coverage pursuant to Form No. CG 00 01 04 13, which includes the following provisions:

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SECTION I - COVERAGES COVERAGE A- BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY

1. **Insuring Agreement**

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- a. We will pay those sums that the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as damages because of "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking those damages. However, we will have no duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance does not apply. ...
- b. This insurance applies to "bodily injury" and "property damage" only if:
 - (1) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" is caused by and "occurrence" that takes place in the "coverage territory";
 - (2) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurs during the policy period ...

2. **Exclusions**

This insurance does not apply to:

a. Expected Or Intended Injury

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" expected or intended from the standpoint of the insured. This exclusion does not apply to "bodily injury" resulting from the use of reasonable force to protect persons or property. ...

SECTION V – DEFINITIONS ...

- 3. "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness or dis-ease sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time.
- 13. "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions. ...
- 16. "Products-completed operations hazard":
 - a. Includes all "bodily injury" and "property damage" occurring away from premises you own or rent and arising out of "your product" or "your work" except:

	Case 3:23-cv-	00164	-LRH-CSD Document 1 Filed 04/18/23 Page 7 of 15	
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1		(1)	Products that are still in your physical possession	
2 3	b.	Does n of:	es not include "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out	
4		(1)	The transportation of property, unless the injury or damage arises out of a condition in or on a vehicle not owned or	
5 6			operated by you, and that condition was created by the "loading or unloading" of that vehicle by any insured;	
7		(2)	The existence of tools, uninstalled equipment or abandoned or unused materials; or	
8		(3)	Products or operations for which the classification, listed in	
9 10		(5)	the Declarations or in a policy Schedule, states that products-completed operations are subject to the General	
11			Aggregate Limit	
12	21. "Your]	ur product":		
13	a.	Means	:	
14		(1)	Any goods or products, other than real property, manufactured, sold, handled, distributed or disposed of by:	
15			(a) You;	
16				
17			(b) Others trading under your name; or	
18 19			(c) A person or organization whose business or assets you have acquired; and	
20		(2)	Containers (other than vehicles), materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such goods or	
21			products.	
22	b.	Include	es:	
23		(1)	Warranties or representations made at any time with respect	
24			to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or use of "your product', and	
25 26		(2)	The providing of or failure to provide warnings or instructions.	
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28	с.		oes not include vending machines or other property rented to or cated for the use of others but not sold	

Case 3:23-cv-00164-LRH-CSD Document 1 Filed 04/18/23 Page 8 of 15 1 34. The Policy includes Form No. CG 21 04 11 85, titled "Products-Completed 2 Operations Hazard Exclusion," which provides, in pertinent part: 3 This insurance does not apply to "bodily injury" or "property damage" included 4 within the "products-completed operations hazard." 5 35. The Policy also includes Form No. AF33510 (07/2012), titled "Classification 6 Limitation," which provides in pertinent part: 7 Coverage under this policy is specifically limited to, and applies only to those 8 classifications as described under the applicable Coverage Part or Schedule designated in the Declarations Page of this policy. 9 This policy excludes coverage for any operation not specifically listed in the 10 Coverage Part, Schedule or Declarations Page of this policy. 11 36. The Policy further includes Form No. AF3380 (06/17), titled, "Fraud, 12 Concealment and Misrepresentation Endorsement," which provides, in pertinent part: 13 FRAUD, CONCEALMENT AND MISREPRESENTATION FOR A. 14 **INCEPTION OF THIS POLICY** This policy was issued based on the information supplied on an application and 15 other correspondence, including your claims or loss history. This information is 16 attached to and considered to be part of this policy. You should review this information carefully because the truth of this information 17 was of paramount importance in influencing our decision to issue this policy. 18 You, for all the insureds under this policy, do warrant the truth of such information to the best of your and their knowledge at the inception date of this 19 policy. If such information is false or misleading, it may cause denial of coverage or 20 voiding of the policy. In any such instance, there shall be no duty to defend or 21 indemnify any insured.... 22 37. The Policy includes Form No. CG 20 26 04 13, titled "Additional Insured -23 Designated Person Or Premises," which lists KN Group, LLC as the scheduled entity. It 24 provides, in pertinent part: 25 A. Section II - Who Is An Insured is amended to include as an additional 26 insured the person(s) or organization(s) shown in the Schedule, but only 27 with respect to liability for "bodily injury", "property damage" or "personal and advertising injury" caused, in whole or in part, by your acts 28

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		Case	3:23-cv-00164-LRH-CSD Document 1 Filed 04/18/23 Page 9 of 15					
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9			 or omissions or the acts or omissions of those acting on your behalf: 1. In the performance of your ongoing operations; or 2. In connection with your premises owned by or rented to you. However: 1. The insurance afforded to such additional insured only applies to the extent permitted by law; and 2. If coverage provided to the additional insured is required by a contract or agreement, the insurance afforded to such additional 					
10			insured will not be broader than that which you are required by the contract or agreement to provide for such additional insured					
11 12		38.	KN Group, LLC is also listed as an additional insured under an endorsement					
13	titled, "Additional Insured – Managers Or Lessors Or Premises," which provides in pertinent							
14	part:							
15 16 17		А.	Section II - Who Is An Insured is amended to include as an additional insured the person(s) or organization(s) shown in the Schedule, but only with respect to liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of that part of the premises leased to you and shown in the Schedule and subject to the following additional exclusions:					
18 19			This insurance does not apply to:					
20 21			1. Any "occurrence" which takes place after you cease to be a tenant in that premises.					
22 23			2. Structural alterations, new construction or demolition operations performed by or on behalf of the person(s) or organization(s) shown in the Schedule.					
24			However:					
25 26			1. The insurance afforded to such additional insured only applies to the extent permitted by law; and					
27 28			2. If coverage provided to the additional insured is required by a contract or agreement, the insurance afforded to such additional insured will					

not be broader than that which you are required by the contract or agreement to provide for such additional insured. ...

<u>COUNT I</u> <u>DECLARATORY JUDGMENT – KARANS, LLC D/B/A HAPPY DAYZE</u>

39. Atain incorporates and restates each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 38 of the general allegations of this Complaint for Declaratory Judgment as if fully alleged in this Paragraph 39.

40. The *Valente* Complaint alleges bodily injury occurring away from the Designated Premises and arising out of Happy Dayze's product.

41. The *Valente* Complaint asserts that Happy Dayze knowingly marketed, sold and/or distributed illegal Kratom products in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and did so without any warning of the known potential risks associated therewith, including death.

42. The *Valente* Complaint seeks exemplary or punitive damages based upon Happy Dayze's alleged intentional conduct.

43. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in connection with the *Valente* Lawsuit because Products / Completed Operations are excluded by the Policy pursuant to the Products Completed Operations Hazard Exclusion.

44. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in connection with the *Valente* Complaint because the Policy excludes coverage for Expected or Intended Injury pursuant to Exclusion a..

45. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in connection with the *Valente* Complaint because the Policy excludes coverage for conduct or

activities occurring outside the Classification Description of the Policy, and under the Policy's Classification Limitation Endorsement.

46. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in connection with any claim for exemplary or punitive damages based on intentional conduct which are uninsurable by operation of law.

47. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify Happy Dayze in connection with any claim that is otherwise outside the scope of coverage under the Policy, or any other applicable exclusion, limitation, or endorsement contained within the Policy.

<u>COUNT II</u> <u>DECLARATORY JUDGMENT – KN GROUP, LLC</u>

48. Atain incorporates and restates each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 38 of the general allegations of this Complaint for Declaratory Judgment as if fully alleged in this Paragraph 48.

49. The *Valente* Complaint alleges bodily injury occurring away from the Designated Premises and arising out of KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze's product.

50. The *Valente* Complaint asserts that KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze knowingly marketed, sold and/or distributed illegal Kratom products in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and did so without any warning of the known potential risks associated therewith, including death.

51. The Valente Complaint seeks exemplary or punitive damages based on KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze's alleged intentional conduct.

52. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze in connection with the *Valente* Lawsuit because Products / Completed Operations

are excluded by the Policy as to all insureds pursuant to the Products Completed Operations Hazard Exclusion.

53. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze in connection with the Valente Complaint because the Policy excludes coverage for Expected or Intended Injury pursuant to Exclusion a.

54. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze in connection with the *Valente* Complaint because the Policy excludes coverage for conduct or activities occurring outside the Classification Description of the Policy, and under the Policy's Classification Limitation Endorsement

55. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze in connection with any claim for exemplary or punitive damages based on intentional conduct which are uninsurable by operation of law.

56. Atain does not have any obligation to defend or indemnify KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze in connection with any claim that is otherwise outside the scope of coverage under the Policy, or any other applicable exclusion, limitation, or endorsement contained within the Policy.

COUNT III (IN THE ALTERNATIVE) RESCISSION OF INSURANCE CONTRACT PURSUANT TO N.R.S.A. 687B.110 BASED ON MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS IN THE APPLICATION

57. Atain incorporates and restates each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 38 of the general allegations of this Complaint for Declaratory Judgment as if fully alleged in this Paragraph 57.

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58. Prior to issuance of the Policy, on or about October 5, 2021, Atain issued a quote for renewal coverage that expressly excluded coverage for products-completed operations, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit C** (the "First Renewal Quote").

59. On or about November 10, 2021, Happy Dayze submitted its application and supplemental addendum seeking commercial general liability and commercial property coverages, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit D** (the "Application").

60. In the Application, Happy Dayze stated that it sold tobacco, electronic cigarettes, wraps, clothing, glass, CBD, sodas beverages, jewelry, vape + vape juice, hookahs." **Ex. D.**

61. Happy Dayze did not disclose its sale of any dietary supplements or any products other than those items listed in paragraph 56 of this complaint.

62. Happy Dayze did not disclose its sale of any products sold without FDA approval. 63. Happy Dayze did not disclose any sale, distribution, and/or marketing and advertising of Kratom-infused products.

64. The sale of products banned from distribution in the United States or otherwise lacking FDA approval is material to the risk contemplated by the Policy.

65. The sale of Kratom products, including Kratom powder and Kratom-infused energy drinks is material to the risk contemplated by the Policy.

66. Happy Dayze warranted that the representations made in the Application were true and accurate to the best of its knowledge and affirmed its understanding that the representations contained therein were material to Atain's decision to issue the Policy.

67. Based on the Application dated November 10, 2021, Atain issued a revised quote for renewal coverage, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**.

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68. Atain would not have issued the Policy if the nature of the products sold had been disclosed as required by the Application.

69. As such, the failure to disclose the sale of Kratom products on the Application submitted by Happy Dayze constitutes a material misrepresentation, concealment, or omission of fact rendering the Policy *void ab nitio* pursuant to N.R.S.A. 687B.110.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, ATAIN SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, requests a judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 against Defendants Karans, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze and KN Group, LLC declaring and awarding the following relief:

A. That this Court take jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this action;
B. Declare that Atain Specialty Insurance Company has no duty under Policy No.
CIP417114 issued to Karans, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze Cigar & Smoke for the period of
November 20, 2021 through November 20, 2022 to defend or indemnify Karans, LLC d/b/a
Happy Dayze Cigar & Smoke, KN Group, LLC or any insured in the lawsuit entitled *Paul A*.
Valente, individually and as Special Administrator of the Estate of Michelle Horning Valente,
deceased and Michael R. Kich, as natural father and legal guardian of KMK and KNK, minors v.
CKL Sales, LLC d/b/a Smok'n Ray's Smoke Shop; KN Group, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze Cigar
and Smoke Shop; Fisher Botanicals, LLC; Shaman Supplies, Inc.; Kono Labs d/b/a Whole
Herbs; Does I-V, Case No. 22-01705 (Washoe County, Nevada);

C. In the alternative, the Atain Specialty Insurance Company Policy No. CIP417114 issued to Karans, LLC d/b/a Happy Dayze Cigar & Smoke for the period of November 20, 2021 through November 20, 2022 is void *ab nitio* pursuant to N.R.S.A. 687B.110; and

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D. Award costs, as well as any further relief that this Honorable Court deems

equitable and just.

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4	Dated: April 18, 2023	Respectfully submitted:
5		MCKAY LAW FIRM, CHTD.
6		/s/ Pamela McKay
7		Pamela A. McKay (SBN 7812)
8		8440 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 112 Las Vegas, NV 89128
9		
10		Attorneys for Plaintiff, ATAIN SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY
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