



# North Dakota Insurance Department

Safeguarding Promises. Fostering Fairness.  
Jon Godfread, Commissioner

## Press Kit

Updated August 2022

## About the Department

Established upon the ratification of the North Dakota Constitution, the North Dakota Insurance Department provides regulatory oversight and consumer assistance in the insurance marketplace that exists in the State. The Department assists consumers with insurance claims and questions about their policies. Additionally, staff examine the finances and policies of insurance companies to ensure the financial viability and security of benefits to protect North Dakota consumers.

The Department is led by the Insurance Commissioner, elected by the people of North Dakota.

The Department is separated into six divisions:

- » Life & Health/Medicare
- » Property & Casualty/Producer Licensing
- » Administrative
- » Company Licensing & Examinations
- » Fraud Investigation
- » Legal

Our consumer assistance team can aid North Dakota consumers by helping to resolve insurance issues, such as claims, premiums and any other questions or issues on insurance policies in the State. Whether it be auto, health, homeowners, boat, life or any other insurance policy, our Department can help.

Our Department includes an in-house fraud investigation division. Investigators receive tips from the general public and insurance companies about potential insurance fraud committed in North Dakota, investigates those claims and, if warranted, recommends charges to local State's Attorneys. Our Department has memorandums of understanding with several State's Attorney's offices where our team will lead the prosecution of those who have committed alleged insurance fraud.

A Department division of financial analysts and examiners inspect the economic health and performance of insurance companies in North Dakota to ensure companies are able to follow through on the promises made to consumers.

# Department Leadership



## Jon Godfread

Commissioner

Jon Godfread was elected North Dakota's 22nd Insurance Commissioner on Nov. 8, 2016, and re-elected on Nov. 3, 2020. In service to the citizens of North Dakota, Godfread has prioritized consumer advocacy, ensuring North Dakotans are better aware of the services offered by the North Dakota Insurance Department beyond industry regulation. He has also worked to restructure the Insurance Department for efficient and effective use of tax-payer dollars, along with employee satisfaction. On a national level, Godfread has been an active voice in discussions about insurance regulations including the use of technology, air ambulance service, and health care reinsurance. Godfread serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

Godfread earned a law degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of North Dakota in 2011. He earned his bachelor's degree in business with honors from the University of Northern Iowa in 2005.



## John Arnold

Deputy Commissioner



## Johnny Palsgraaf

General Counsel & Legal  
Division Director



## Matt Fischer, CFE

Chief Examiner &  
Company Licensing and  
Examinations Division  
Director



## Rachel Kriege

Administrative  
Division Director



## Chrystal Bartuska

Life & Health/Medicare  
Division Director



## Janelle Middlestead

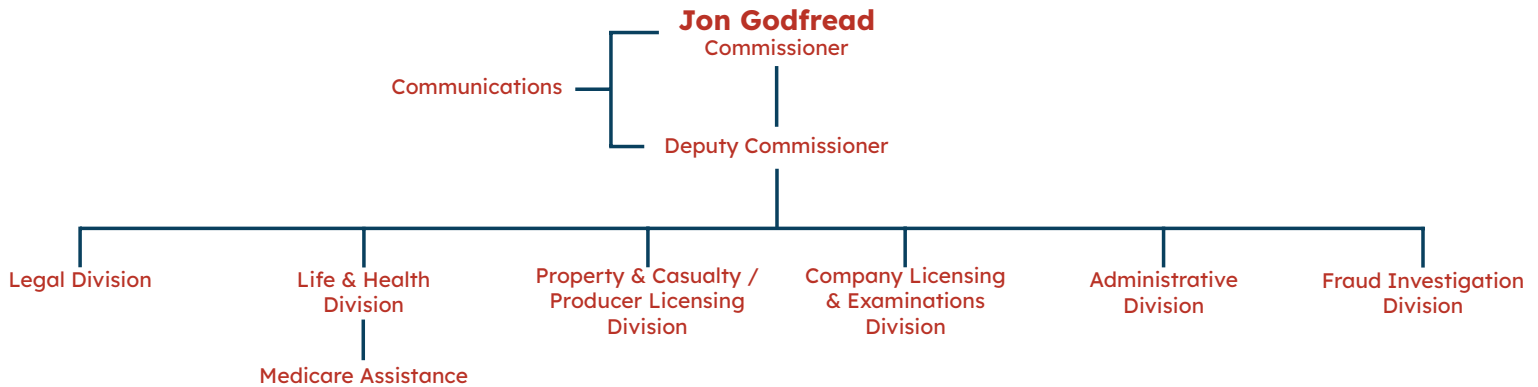
Property & Casualty /  
Producer Licensing Division  
Director



## Dale Pittman

Fraud Investigation  
Division Director

# Organizational Structure



## Medicare Assistance

### State Health Insurance Counseling

North Dakota Insurance Department

With funds from the Administration for Community Living, the Department offers free and unbiased Medicare assistance to all North Dakotans. Our counselors can assist with completing forms, filing appeals, exploring coverage options and any other Medicare-related issues.

Assistance is available year-round, including Medicare Part D open enrollment.

## Prescription Connection

### Prescription Connection

North Dakota Insurance Department

Prescription Connection is a program that assists low-income North Dakotans with accessing prescription drugs.

In order to qualify for the program, applicants must be a North Dakota resident, do not qualify for any state assistance programs for prescription drugs and have a low income and/or financial challenges that affect the ability to purchase prescription drugs.

## NAIC



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS

North Dakota is a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), is an organization comprised of the chief insurance regulators of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

The NAIC provides a platform to collaborate on setting fair and competitive insurance regulatory standards. NAIC staff provide resources and guidance to departments on a variety of issues.

# Media Contact



## Jacob Just

*Director of Communications*

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Email: [jjust@nd.gov](mailto:jjust@nd.gov)

## How we can help

Have a story in mind and need assistance from our Department? We have team members with hundreds of years of combined experience in the insurance sector and can work with you to inform and educate your audience on a variety of insurance-related topics.

### Topics we can help with:

- » Insurance policies sold in North Dakota
- » Medicare
- » Insurance fraud
- » Insurance agents in North Dakota
- » Company & agent licensing
- » Insurance premium rates
- » Insurance market conduct

This is just a list of frequent topics we receive inquiries on. If your topic is not listed above, contact us! We would be happy to assist you.

## Connect with us



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