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Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

CRYSTAL L. PONDER,
deceased.

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Case No. PR-2017-000772

ORDER ON FINAL SETTLEMENT OF SURETY

This matter came before the Court on September 20, 2021 for hearing on the Petition for Final Settlement filed by Merchants Bonding Company ("Merchants"), as Surety for Vernon L. Ponder, II, Personal Representative of the Estate of Crystal L. Ponder, deceased. Notice was given as required by law. The case was called and the Court proceeded to review the documents and supporting evidence filed in this matter.

On or about December 22, 2017 this Court issued Letters of Administration to Vernon L. Ponder, II ("Personal Representative") upon the posting of a Bond in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000). The Personal Representative noted in his Petition for Letters of Administration that the estate was worth "approximately \$5,000". The Personal Representative was Ordered to file an Inventory within two months of his appointment. No Inventory was ever filed. The case was set on the Court's NonCompliance Docket on February 18, 2021 for failure to file an Inventory and Annual Accounting as Ordered. The Personal Representative's attorney filed a Motion to Continue to allow time to reach his client which was granted and the case continued to March 9, 2021. Prior to the scheduled hearing on March 9, 2021, the attorney for the Personal Representative filed a Motion to Withdraw as counsel. The basis for said Motion was that the attorney had been unable to locate his client, the Personal Representative. The Motion to Withdraw was granted and the Court entered an Order requiring the Bonding Company to file a Final Settlement of the estate.

The Bonding Company filed a Final Settlement on April 28, 2021. Upon examination of the allegations set forth in the petition and of the record, the Court **FINDS** as follows:

1. The estate in this matter was opened for the purpose of pursuing a wrongful death case which has been resolved.
2. The decedent was possessed of no assets at the time of her death.
3. More than six (6) months have elapsed since the granting of Letters of Administration and there have been two unsecured claims filed against the estate which do not appear to have been settled.
4. The heirs and next of kin of the Estate appear to be:
Vernon L. Ponder, II Spouse
Vernon L. Ponder, III Child, under the age of 19
5. That there are no assets to be distributed to the heirs or with which to settle the claims that have been filed against the estate.

It is therefore, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** by the Court that the costs of this proceeding are hereby taxed against Merchants Bonding Company, and it is

ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED by the Court that upon payment of the aforesaid sums, the account heretofore filed by Merchants Bonding Company will be passed and allowed, and that the Bond on which Merchants Bonding Company is named as surety, will be cancelled and



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discharged of record, and said Merchants Bonding Company will be released and discharged of any and all further liability thereon, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Personal Representative's Letters of Administration are revoked for failure to make and return an inventory, the failure to file an Annual Accounting, the failure to file a Final Settlement and failure to appear for hearing.

DONE this the 22nd day of September, 2021.

Allison S. Boyd

Allison S. Boyd
Judge of Probate

cc: J. Scott Dickens, Esq.
Vernon L. Ponder, II

I certify this to be a true and
correct copy allison S. Boyd
Probate Judge
Shelby County

Date 9/22/21
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