

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That MERIT PAINTING & DECORATING INC
of 2026 E GAISOR DR CRETE, ILLINOIS 60417

AS Principal and STATE FARM FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY duly authorized to transact surety business in the State of Indiana, as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto Lake County, Indiana, in the penal sum of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, lawful money of the United States, for the payment of which well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Signed, sealed and dated this 9TH day of APRIL, 19 97.

Chapter 88 of IC17-2 requires the Principal to file this bond and guarantees the compliance with the ordinances and regulations of the County or a city or town within Lake County.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That if the above bounden Principal shall on and after the 7TH day of APRIL, 19 97, indemnify said Obligee against all loss, costs, expenses or damage to it caused by said Principal's non-compliance with or breach of any laws, statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations pertaining to such license or permit, then the above obligation shall be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and effect.

Provided, the term of the bond is continuous.

AND, PROVIDED, the Surety may cancel this bond at any time by giving thirty (30) days notice in writing mailed to the Obligee.

PROVIDED FURTHER, regardless of the number of years this bond shall continue or be continued in force and of the number of premiums that shall be payable or paid, the Surety shall not be liable hereunder for a larger amount, in the aggregate, than the amount of this bond.

PROVIDED FURTHER, regardless of the number of licenses held by the Principal within the County and the number of claims that may be filed against this bond either under a single license or more than a single license, the total of which may exceed the penalty of this bond, the Surety shall not be liable hereunder for a larger amount, in the aggregate, than the amount of this bond.

PROVIDED FURTHER, that this bond shall not be construed to provide indemnity as a result of the Principal's failure to perform the terms of a construction contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

[Signature]
(Principal)

By _____

STATE FARM FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY
By Suzanne M Greif
Surety
Attorney-in-Face

97026104

97026104
STATE OF INDIANA
LAKE COUNTY
FILED FOR RECORD
APR 25 PM 1:15
REC'D CLERK

1200
as
90

Power of Attorney
STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, an Illinois corporation, with its principal office in Bloomington, Illinois, does hereby constitute and appoint: John C. Anderson, Sheri Anderson, Meg Bortoff, Diana L. Boyd, Maura Brown, Ceola Campbell, Pamela Chancellor, Walter D. Clark, Ruth Davis, Julie Freed, Bobby L. Gale, Matthew J. Gibbons, John Gibson, Christine M. Goben, William L. Gordon, Suzanne M. Greif, John R. Horton, Michelle Jackson, Cynthia Johnson, Mary Johnson, Susan K. Johnson, Julia Klinzing, Teri Brady, G.F. Krawcyk, Janet R. Leake, Sharran Manns, Theresa Miller, Donna K. O'Crowly, James Platt, Lynn Rakowski, Alice Schuler, Kim Shine, Trudy Spence, Heidi Stevens, Tammy Thomas, Wilma L. Weinzierl, Mary C. Wiswehr of Bloomington, Illinois its true and lawful Attorney(s)-in-Fact, to make, execute, seal and deliver for, and on its behalf as surety, any and all bonds, undertakings or other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond as follows:

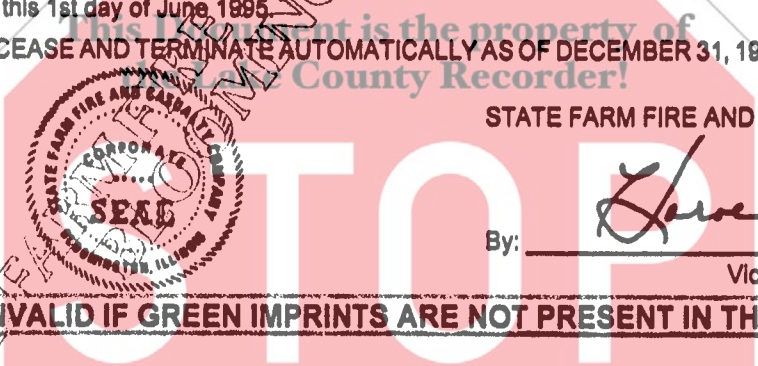
Any such obligation in any amount. This appointment is made under and by the authority of a resolution which was passed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of State Farm Fire and Casualty Company on the 24th day of July, 1974, as is duly authorized by the Board of Directors in Article II, Section 6 of the By-Laws of the Company, which resolution is:

Resolved, that the Executive Vice-President or a Vice-President of the Company is hereby authorized to appoint and empower any representative of the Company or other person or persons as Attorney-in-Fact to execute on behalf of the Company any bonds, undertakings, policies, contracts of indemnity or other writings obligatory in the nature of a bond, which the Company might execute through its duly elected officers, and affix the seal of the Company thereto. Any said execution of such documents by an Attorney-in-Fact shall be as binding upon the Company as if they had been duly executed and acknowledged by the regularly elected officers of the Company. Any Attorney-in-Fact, so appointed, may be removed for good cause and the authority so granted may be revoked as specified in the Power of Attorney.

Resolved, that the signature of the Executive Vice-President or any Vice-President and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile on any power of attorney granted, and the signature of the Secretary, Vice-President or Assistant Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any certificate of any such power and any such power or certificate bearing such facsimile signature and seal shall be valid and binding on the Company. Any such power so executed and sealed and certificate so executed and sealed shall, with respect to any bond or undertaking to which it is attached, continue to be valid and binding on the Company.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY has caused this instrument to be signed by its Vice-President, and its Corporate Seal to be affixed this 1st day of June, 1995.

This APPOINTMENT SHALL CEASE AND TERMINATE AUTOMATICALLY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998, UNLESS SOONER REVOKED AS PROVIDED.



STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

By: Harold D. Covey
Vice-President

THIS POWER INVALID IF GREEN IMPRINTS ARE NOT PRESENT IN THEIR ENTIRETY

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF MCLEAN

On this 1st day of June, 1995, before me personally came Harold D. Covey to me known, who being duly sworn, did depose and say that he is Vice-President of STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, the corporation described in and which executed the above instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such Corporate Seal; and that he executed said instrument on behalf of the corporation by authority of his office under the By-Laws of said corporation.

"OFFICIAL SEAL"
Sharran Kaye Manns
Notary Public, State of Illinois
My Commission Expires 2/11/99

Sharran Kaye Manns
Notary Public
My commission expires February 11, 1999

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Vice-President of STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, do hereby certify that the original Power of Attorney of which the foregoing is a true and correct copy, is in full force and effect and has not been revoked and the resolutions as set forth are now in force.

Signed and sealed at Bloomington, Illinois. Dated this 9th day of April 1997



Alan C. Steiner
Vice-President

If you have a question concerning the validity of this Power of Attorney, call (309) 766-1161.