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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION - HUDSON COUNTY
DOCKET NO. HUD-L-005029-19

MARLENE CARIDE,
COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
BANKING AND INSURANCE,

Plaintiff,

v.

STEPHEN M. HART,

Defendant.

Civil Action

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS Plaintiff Marlene Caride, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance ("Plaintiff" or "Commissioner"), and Defendant Stephen M. Hart ("Defendant") (collectively, "Parties") have reached an amicable agreement resolving the issues in controversy, and consented to the entry of the within Stipulation of Settlement ("Settlement").

WHEREAS the Parties have determined and hereby agree that settlement is in each of their best interests, and for good cause shown.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree fully and finally to settle this matter pursuant to the terms and conditions below.

1. Defendant admits that he violated the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 to -30 ("Fraud Act"), specifically by falsely reporting to the police and an insurance company that jewelry he owned had been stolen, when in fact it had not been stolen, in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4(a)(1) and (a)(2).

2. Defendant's aforementioned conduct constitutes one violation of the Fraud Act, and any future violations of the Fraud Act shall be considered second and subsequent violations pursuant to 17:33A-5(c).

3. Defendant agrees that he shall not engage in any future violations of the Fraud Act.

4. Defendant shall pay a total judgment of \$5,750.00 to the Commissioner ("Settlement Amount"). This Settlement Amount consists of \$5,000.00 in civil penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); \$500.00 in attorneys' fees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); and a \$250.00 statutory surcharge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1.

5. Defendant shall satisfy the judgment upon the following terms and conditions: immediately upon execution of this Stipulation of Settlement by Defendant, Defendant shall remit to the attorney for the Commissioner a payment in the amount of \$5,750.00 by certified check, official bank check, or money order made payable to the "Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance" and sent to:

Brian R. Fitzgerald
Deputy Attorney General
Banking and Insurance Section
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
P.O. Box 117
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

6. No representation, inducement, promise, understanding, condition, or warranty not set forth in this Settlement has been made to or relied upon by Defendant in agreeing to this Settlement. Defendant represents that this Settlement is freely and voluntary entered into without any degree of duress or compulsion.

7. The Parties agree that each Party shall bear its own legal and other costs incurred in connection with this matter, and no additional attorneys' fees or costs shall be due, except Defendant agrees to pay all reasonable costs of collection and enforcement of this Settlement, including attorneys' fees and expenses.

8. For purposes of construction, this Settlement shall be deemed drafted by all Parties to this Settlement and therefore shall not be construed against any Party for that reason in any subsequent dispute.

9. The undersigned counsel and any other signatories represent and warrant that they are fully authorized to execute this Settlement on behalf of the persons indicated below.

10. All communications from any party concerning the subject matter of this Settlement shall be addressed as follows:

If to the Commissioner: Brian R. Fitzgerald
Deputy Attorney General
Banking and Insurance Section
R.J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
P.O. Box 117
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

If to Defendant: Stephen M. Hart
2045 Beech Street
Wantagh, New York 11793

11. This Settlement may be executed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original and all of which constitutes one and the same agreement.

12. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-10(c), a copy of this Stipulation of Settlement shall be provided to any appropriate licensing authority.


13. This Stipulation of Settlement may be used in any subsequent civil or criminal proceedings.

14. The penalties of this Settlement are imposed pursuant to the police powers of the State of New Jersey for the enforcement of the law and protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, and are not intended to constitute debts which may be limited or discharged in a bankruptcy proceeding.


CONSENTED AS TO FORM, CONTENT, AND ENTRY:

GURBIR S. GREWAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: 5/4/20

By: 
Brian R. Fitzgerald
Deputy Attorney General

Dated: 3/20/2020

By: 
Stephen M. Hart
Defendant, pro se