

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
*Attorney for Plaintiff*  
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex  
25 Market Street  
P.O. Box 117  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0117

By: William E. Vaughan  
Deputy Attorney General  
(609) 376-2965  
NJ Attorney ID: 021252010  
[William.Vaughan@law.njoag.gov](mailto:William.Vaughan@law.njoag.gov)

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION - ESSEX COUNTY  
DOCKET NO. ESX-L-005073-21

MARLENE CARIDE, )  
COMMISSIONER OF THE )  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF )  
BANKING AND INSURANCE, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
ERIC JONES, )  
 )  
 )  
Defendant. )

Civil Action

**ORDER FOR FINAL  
JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT**

THIS MATTER HAVING BEEN opened to the Court on the application of Matthew J. Platkin, Acting Attorney General of New Jersey, (by William E. Vaughan, Deputy Attorney General, appearing), attorney for Plaintiff, Marlene Caride, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance on a motion for judgment by default; and

Defendant, Eric Jones (“Defendant”), having been duly served with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above-captioned action, and default having been

entered for Defendant's failure to appear, answer, or otherwise defend;

This Court now finds that Defendant violated the New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 to -30 ("Fraud Act") by knowingly making false statements to an insurance company in support of an automobile insurance application and claim.

Specifically, (a) Defendant made a false oral statement to Progressive Garden State Insurance Company ("Progressive") that he had not been in any motor vehicle accident within the last five (5) years, concealing an accident that occurred earlier in the day, so that he would obtain an automobile insurance policy, in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4(a)(4)(b) and N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4(a)(3); and (b) Defendant, in a claim for insurance benefits, made a false oral statement to Progressive that his vehicle was involved in an accident after he obtained automobile insurance when, in fact, the accident occurred prior to Defendant applying for automobile insurance, in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4(a)(1); and

FINAL JUDGMENT is on this 10th day of <sup>June,</sup> 2022, entered in the amount of \$9,580.00 against Defendant, and in favor of Plaintiff, Marlene Caride, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance as follows:

(a) \$5,000.00 in civil penalties for two (2) violations of the Fraud Act, N.J.S.A.

17:33A-5(b);

(b) attorneys' fees of \$3,500.00 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b);

(c) costs of service in the amount of \$80.00 against Defendant pursuant to N.J.S.A.

17:33A-5(b); and

(d) a statutory fraud surcharge of \$1,000.00 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:6A-15, Defendant's driving privileges will be suspended for a period of one (1) year from the date of this judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that a copy of this Order be served upon all parties within 7 days of the date of receipt.

This motion was:

/s/ Bridget A. Stecher •  
HON. BRIDGET A. STECHER, J.S.C.

       Opposed         Unopposed