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FILED

3:30 pm, Dec 21, 2023

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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL CIVIL PART - ESSEX COUNTY
DOCKET NO. ESX-DC-006266-23

JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN, ACTING)
COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW)
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF)
BANKING AND INSURANCE,¹)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
STAFFORD HUGHES,)
Defendant.)

Civil Action

**ORDER FOR FINAL JUDGMENT BY
DEFAULT**

**SPECIAL CIVIL PART: STATUTORY
PENALTIES**

**AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY:
\$8,132.00**

THIS MATTER HAVING BEEN opened to the Court on the application of Matthew J. Platkin, Attorney General of New Jersey, (by Brian R. Fitzgerald, Deputy Attorney General, appearing), attorney for Plaintiff, Justin Zimmerman, Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance on a motion for judgment by default; and

¹ Pursuant to R. 4:34-4, the caption has been revised to reflect the current Acting Commissioner of the Department.

Defendant, Stafford Hughes (“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 by making written and oral statements to an insurance company in support of a claim for payment or other benefit pursuant to an insurance policy, knowing that the statements contained false or misleading information concerning material facts, in violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4(a)(1). Specifically, Defendant, in support of an automobile accident claim, made written and oral statements to Progressive Insurance Company, falsely representing that he was in an automobile accident after the inception of his automobile insurance policy when, in fact, the accident occurred prior to the inception of his policy; and

FINAL JUDGMENT is on this ^{21st} day of ^{December} 2023, entered in the amount of \$8,132.00 against Defendant, and in favor of Plaintiff. This amount consists of \$5,000.00 in civil penalties for one (1) violation of the Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); attorneys’ fees of \$2,132.00 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); and 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.

