

JENNIFER DAVENPORT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
P.O. Box 117
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Attorney for Plaintiff

By: Richard E. Wegryn, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General
NJ Attorney ID: 048361993
(609) 376-2965
richard.wegryn@law.njoag.gov

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION - BERGEN COUNTY
DOCKET NO. BER-L-4486-25

SUSAN OCHS, ACTING)
COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW)
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF)
BANKING AND INSURANCE,¹)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
STEVEN HOURAN a/k/a)
HITNAM ABUHOURLAN, NASSER)
ABUHOURLAN, and HOURAN USA)
CONSTRUCTION, LLC,)

Civil Action

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

Defendants.

WHEREAS Plaintiff Susan Ochs, Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance ("Plaintiff" or "Commissioner"), Defendant Steven Houran a/k/a Hitnam Abuhouran ("Defendant Houran"), and Defendant Houran USA Construction, LLC

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

("Defendant Houran Construction")(collectively, "Defendants") have reached an amicable agreement resolving the issues in controversy, and consented to the entry of the within Stipulation of Settlement ("Settlement").

WHEREAS Defendants having been duly served with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above-captioned action;

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

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

1. Defendants admit that, on or about May 23, 2020, they provided materially false and misleading documents to Hartford Underwriting Insurance, on behalf of Defendant Houran USA Construction, in connection with an audit of Defendant Houran USA's workers compensation policy, in violation of New Jersey Insurance Fraud Prevention Act, N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 to -30 ("Fraud Act").

2. The aforementioned conduct constitutes one violation of the Fraud Act on behalf of each Defendant, and any future violations of the Fraud Act shall be considered subsequent violations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(c).

3. Defendants agree that they shall not engage in any future violations of the Fraud Act.

4. Defendants shall pay a total settlement amount of \$25,000.00 to the Commissioner ("Settlement Amount"). This Settlement Amount consists of \$20,000.00 in civil penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); \$3,000.00 in attorneys' fees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(b); and two \$1,000.00 statutory surcharges pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1.

5. The Defendants shall satisfy the judgment upon the following terms and conditions:

a. Within thirty (30) days of execution of this Stipulation of Settlement by the Defendants, the Defendants shall remit to the attorney for the Commissioner a payment in the amount of \$25,000.00 by certified check, official bank check, or money order made payable to the "Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance" and sent to:

Richard E. Wegryn, Jr., 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 Defendants in agreeing to this Settlement. Defendants represent 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 the Defendant agrees to pay Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5 (b) (in the amount stated in Paragraph 4) plus 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:

Richard E. Wegryn, Jr.
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 the Defendant:

Michael H. Ansell, Esquire

9 Egbert Avenue
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

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

14. 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.

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

16. 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.

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CONSENTED AS TO FORM, CONTENT, AND ENTRY:

JENNIFER DAVENPORT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: 06 / 29 / 2026

By: *Richard E. Wegryn, Jr.*
Richard E. Wegryn, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General

Dated: 06 / 26 / 2026

By: *Steve Houran*
Steven Houran
a/k/a Hitnam Abuhouran
Defendant

Dated: 06 / 26 / 2026

By: *Steve Houran*
Steven Houran
a/k/a Hitnam Abuhouran
CEO of Defendant Houran
USA Construction, LLC

Dated: June 26, 2026

By: *Michael Ansell*
Michael H. Ansell, Esq.
Counsel for Defendants