

23C-054C

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE
BUREAU OF FRAUD DETERRENCE**



CONSENT ORDER NO. 22-53936-51

In the Matter of) **CONSENT ORDER**
Austin J. Halls)
850 Bloomfield Ave., Apt. 1C)
Montclair, New Jersey 07042)
Respondent.)

THIS MATTER having been opened by the Bureau of Fraud Deterrence, Department of Banking and Insurance of the State of New Jersey, upon information indicating that Respondent, Austin J. Halls, currently residing at 850 Bloomfield Avenue, Apartment 1C, Montclair, New Jersey 07042, may have violated the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4; and

WHEREAS, Respondent, Austin J. Halls, did knowingly provide materially false and misleading information to the Progressive Insurance Company on November 16, 2022, at 4:46 p.m., on a Statement of No Loss, by stating that his policy vehicle had not been involved in any accidents since the policy canceled on November 10, 2022 when, in fact, it had been involved in an accident on November 16, 2022, prior to reinstatement of the policy.

Furthermore, Austin J. Halls falsely reported the loss as having occurred at 5:09 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the above conduct constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., and any future violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-1 et seq., shall be considered to be a second offense; and

WHEREAS, Respondent has been informed that he has a right to notice and to request a hearing, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.), on the violation alleged herein before a civil and administrative penalty is imposed; and

WHEREAS, Respondent understands these rights and has voluntarily waived the right to notice and to a formal legal proceeding in this matter; and

WHEREAS, Respondent consents to pay a civil administrative penalty in the amount of \$2,500.00, and surcharge in the amount of \$125.00, the total amount of \$2,625.00 being due immediately by certified check, bank check or money order made payable to the

"Commissioner, Department of Banking and Insurance". This signed order and the payment shall be returned to Managing Investigator, Michael I. Palumbo, Bureau of Fraud Deterrence, Department of Banking and Insurance, PO Box 326, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; and

WHEREAS, the penalties of this Consent Order are imposed pursuant to the police powers of the State of New Jersey for the enforcement of the law and the 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; and


IT FURTHER APPEARING that the matter is suitable for resolution upon the consent of the parties and that Respondent and the Bureau of Fraud Deterrence desire to terminate this matter without further hearing or litigation, and for further good cause appearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ON THIS 15TH day of March, 2023,

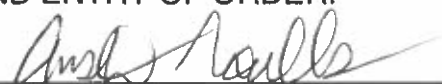
ORDERED AND AGREED as follows:

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(c), civil administrative penalty of \$2,500.00 is imposed on Respondent, Austin J. Halls.
2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1, Respondent shall pay to the Commissioner, Department of Banking and Insurance, a surcharge equal to five (5%) percent of the settlement amount, which is \$125.00, such amount to be in addition to the civil administrative penalty.
3. This Consent Order shall not be binding until it is signed by the Chief of Investigations, Bureau of Fraud Deterrence.
4. Respondent consents to the entry of this final administrative order. Respondent understands that this final administrative order may be docketed with the Clerk of the Superior Court as provided in the Penalty Enforcement Law (N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1 et seq.).

MARLENE CARIDE
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

By: 
RICHARD BESSER
CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU OF FRAUD DETERRENCE

CONSENTED TO AS TO FORM, CONTENT
AND ENTRY OF ORDER:


Austin J. Halls, Respondent

Dated: 3/14/23