

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



CONSENT ORDER NO. 25-53227-04, 26C-180C

In the Matter of	)	CONSENT ORDER
Juan C. Merino Martos	)	
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, Juan C. Merino Martos, may have violated the provisions of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4; and

WHEREAS, Respondent, Juan C. Merino Martos, knowingly provided false and or misleading information to Progressive Group of Insurance Companies in pursuit of an automobile glass claim. Specifically, Respondent reported that his windshield cracked on his insured 2021 Hyundai Santa Fe on April 30, 2025, after he added comprehensive glass coverage to his policy on April 30, 2025, at 3:13 p.m., when, in fact, the damage to his insured vehicle occurred on or before April 20, 2025; 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 \$1,500.00, and surcharge in the amount of \$75.00, the total amount of \$1,575.00 being due immediately by certified check, bank check or money order made payable to the "Acting 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 13th day of April, 2026

ORDERED AND AGREED as follows:

1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5(c), civil administrative penalty of \$1,500.00 is imposed on Respondent, Juan C. Merino Martos.
2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5.1, Respondent shall pay to the Acting Commissioner, Department of Banking and Insurance, a surcharge equal to five (5%) percent of the settlement amount, which is \$75.00, 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.).

SUSAN OCHS
ACTING COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE

By: 
GEORGE WALL
CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS
BUREAU OF FRAUD DETERRENCE

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


Juan C. Merino Martos, Respondent

Dated: 03/31/2026