



NEWS RELEASE

RALPH HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.oci.ga.gov

For Immediate Release
August 24, 2015

Contact: Laura Wright
404-313-4097
media@oci.ga.gov
Twitter: @GA_DOI

Eleven Macon Residents Charged With Allegedly Staging Car Accidents

Atlanta- On August 24, investigators from Commissioner Ralph Hudgens' Fraud division, with assistance from Bibb County Sherriff David Davis and his deputies, arrested six Macon residents on charges of insurance fraud. Five more Bibb County residents have outstanding warrants.

The arrests stem from three separate investigations referred to the Department by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Fraud agents from the Department charged the eleven individuals with allegedly staging car accidents. The three cases involved similar circumstances where, allegedly, two individuals purposely hit another vehicle containing two other individuals in order to obtain insurance claim payments.

The first investigation involved Haaruwn Prince, 25, Zanquanishia Floyd, 20, Demario Anton James, 23, and Sammy Lee Briggs, Jr., 52. The four offenders allegedly attempted to collect over \$30,000 in claim payments from their insurers after Prince allegedly hit Floyd's vehicle, which contained two minors, with his. Each individual was charged with one count each of Insurance Fraud. Prince, Floyd, and James were each charged with one count of False Report of a Crime and two counts of Cruelty to Children, which is a felony. Floyd was charged with one count of Theft by Deception, also a felony.

The second investigation involved Sammie Lee Starks, 69, Linniece Victoria Starks, 19, Tamika Dashon Hogan, 20, and Jonathan Gutierrez, 22. Sammie Starks allegedly attempted to obtain \$30,000 claim payments after Hogan struck Sammie Lee Stark's vehicle, which Linniece Stark was driving at the time. Each individual was charged with one count of Insurance Fraud and one count of Theft by Deception. Linniece Starks and Tamika Hogan were each charged with Filing a False Report of a Crime.

The third investigation involved Haaruwn Prince, Bryant Orlando Tanner, 46, Sherrod Herschel James, 22, and Darnez Rashod Cotton, 22. Prince struck the vehicle Tanner was driving, which contained two minors, after which the four offenders allegedly attempted to collect over \$50,000 in claim payments from their insurers. Each individual was charged with one count of Insurance Fraud. Prince and Tanner were each charged with two counts of Cruelty to Children in the Second Degree and with one count each of Filing a False Police Report. These charges are in addition to the four charges Prince received from the first investigation.

"I appreciate the National Insurance Crime Bureau for the referrals of these three cases and the assistance of Sheriff Davis and his deputies with the arrests," Hudgens said. "Not only are accident rings dangerous for the public, they make everyone's auto insurance premiums go up."

Insurance fraud is a felony that carries a penalty of two to ten years in prison, a fine up to \$10,000, or, potentially, both.

If you suspect Insurance Fraud, please call the Georgia Department of Insurance at (404)656-2070 or toll free at (800)656-2298.