



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS ARRESTS CELL PHONE BANDIT

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that a Newton County man has been arrested on 14 felony warrants in connection with a fraudulent mobile phone acquisition scheme.

Andrew Anthony Hoilett, 35, of 570 Clearbrook Drive in Covington was arrested and charged with three counts of insurance fraud, three counts of identity fraud, three counts of forgery, three counts of financial transaction card fraud and two counts of theft by receiving.

An investigation by Hudgens' Fraud Unit revealed that on multiple occasions, Hoilett accessed the Asurion Insurance Company's website using other mobile users' account information and filed fraudulent insurance claims for lost or damaged mobile phones. Hoilett would later track the shipment of the device to his victim's home and either intercept the package from the delivery drivers or remove it directly from the doorsteps.

"My office will continue to aggressively pursue any form of insurance fraud," Hudgens said. "Besides being a crime, fraudulent insurance claims cause premiums to go up for the rest of us. There are potentially 162 additional victims of this crime across the state."

Hoilett is currently in the Newton County Jail awaiting arraignment. The Newton County Sheriff's Department assisted with the arrest. Additional felony charges are expected.

Insurance fraud is a felony with a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.