



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS: FORMER INSURANCE AGENT ARRESTED ON MULTIPLE COUNTS OF INSURANCE FRAUD

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens today announced that a former insurance agent from Franklin County has been arrested and charged with insurance fraud.

James Travis Williams, 34, was arrested today and charged with 15 counts of insurance fraud and two counts of forgery for allegedly taking premium payments from policyholders and converting the money to his own use. Williams has been booked into the Franklin County Jail. No bond has been set.

According to the investigation, Williams allegedly collected approximately \$30,000 in premium payments on a variety of insurance products and never forwarded those premiums to the appropriate insurance companies for coverage, Hudgens said.

“This office will not tolerate any insurance agent stealing from his or her customer,” Hudgens said. “Such actions constitute a violation of a trust between an agent and policyholder, a violation we take very seriously.”

Williams formerly owned and operated Tri-County Insurance Agency at 665 Cook Street, Royston, Ga., in Franklin County. His license to sell insurance in Georgia was relinquished in October of 2013 when he signed a consent order agreeing to voluntarily surrender his agent’s license. The surrender of his license was the result of an ongoing investigation by Hudgens’ Fraud Unit.

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

Commissioner Hudgens urges citizens who may have conducted insurance transactions with Williams or Tri-County Insurance Agency to contact their insurance company to verify their coverage. Consumers can also contact Hudgens’ Office at **1-800-656-2298**. Calls are taken from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.