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Ralph Hudgens
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NEWS RELEASE

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GWINNETT COUNTY BUSINESS OWNER ARRESTED FOR FRAUD

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that a Gwinnett County business owner has been charged with one count of insurance fraud for presenting a fraudulent certificate of insurance coverage.

Arrested on May 11, was Maria Estela Castillo, 34, of Lilburn, Georgia. The suspect, who owns Castillo Garage Doors presented a fraudulent proof of general liability and workers compensation insurance to Cobb County business Painting Plus to obtain a sub contractor's job with the company.

An investigation by Hudgens' Fraud Division determined that the fraudulent certificate of insurance Castillo issued to Painting Plus contained information written by Biltmore Insurance Agency for coverage with the effective dates of January 29, 2015, to January 29, 2016. Investigators determined that Biltmore Insurance did not produce a certificate of insurance for Castillo Garage and Doors in 2015, or at any time since their coverage canceled in April 2011.

Castillo was booked into the Cobb County Jail and posted a bond for release.

Commissioner Hudgens recommends that businesses verify that a contractor is licensed and insured before they are hired, or any work is done.

Insurance fraud is a felony punishable by imprisonment for two to ten years, or by a fine of up to \$10,000.00, or both.