



*State of Georgia*  
**Department of Insurance**

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**Ralph Hudgens**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
Safety Fire Commissioner  
Industrial Loan Commissioner  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release  
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### **SOUTH GEORGIA MEN ARRESTED FOR STAGING SLIP-AND-FALL ACCIDENTS**

**Atlanta, GA** – Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that arrest warrants were issued to three men for their participation in a staged accident ring operating in South Georgia. Germain Baynard, 20, Ryan Law, 21, and Demetrius Lee, 22, each of Thomasville, Ga., face felony charges related to the crime. Authorities are currently seeking a fourth suspect, Keronda Bell, 46, also of Thomasville.

Special Fraud Agents in Hudgens' office and the National Insurance Crime Bureau alleged the men staged slip-and-fall accidents at various businesses in Brooks, Colquitt and Thomas counties. The investigation revealed that Bell was the ringleader, planning the slip-and-falls and filing the fraudulent claims.

"My office will investigate all forms of insurance fraud," said Commissioner Hudgens. "Individuals who feel that they are above the law and file a false insurance claim will be arrested and prosecuted."

Baynard, Law, and Lee, were booked into the Thomas County Jail and later released on bond.

To report suspected fraud, contact the Georgia Department of Insurance at **800-656-2298**. Callers may remain anonymous.