



NEWS RELEASE

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OXENDINE ANNOUNCES ARREST OF INSURANCE FRAUD SUSPECT

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine announced today that a Gwinnett County insurance agent has been arrested on insurance fraud charges.

“I have no tolerance for criminals who attempt to defraud elderly victims like this,” Oxendine said.

Lonnie Robinson, 59, of Flowery Branch has been charged with two counts of insurance fraud, Oxendine said. Robinson allegedly forged the signatures of two elderly clients on applications for Medicare Advantage policies.

One victim, a 74-year-old resident of Gainesville, complained to the insurance carrier that she had not signed up for the policy in question. She discovered the fraud when she attempted to pick up a prescription and was told it was no longer covered; fortunately she was able to pay cash to get the medication she needed. The other case came to light when a 90-year-old Norcross woman’s name was misspelled on the application, and she was listed as a male instead of female.

Commissioner Oxendine cautioned Georgians to be wary when contacted about switching to a Medicare drug plan. The Commissioner offered the following tips to protect you from scam artists:

- Beware of door-to-door sales people. Agents cannot solicit business at your home without an appointment. Do not let uninvited agents into your home.
- Check with your state’s insurance department to make sure the salesperson is a licensed agent.
- Do not give out personal information, such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone you have not verified as a licensed agent.
- Verify that the plan you have chosen is an approved Medicare plan. All of the approved plans are available at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

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