



NEWS RELEASE

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OXENDINE ANNOUNCES ARREST OF TOOMBS AGENT

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine said an investigation by his office resulted in the arrest today of insurance agent in Lyons, Ga.

Arrested was Meredith Dianne Sowell, 165 Humphries Trail Circle, Lyons. She has been charged with 13 counts of insurance fraud.

Oxendine said Sowell allegedly kept premiums paid to her for various coverages, including auto, general liability and workers comp. The suspect's agency, Sowell and Sowell Insurance, is located at 325 North State Street in Lyons. She's also charged with issuing bogus insurance certificates in Chatham County. Warrants were issued in both Toombs and Chatham Counties.

"I'm urging consumers who may have dealt with this agent to contact the insurance company listed on their policy to be sure they have the coverage they paid for," Oxendine said. "If there is some doubt about your coverage, call our Consumer Services Division at 404-656-2070. Phone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday."

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

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