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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Former Idaho resident charged with insurance fraud

BOISE ID (August 1, 2016) – Ashley Monroe, a former Idaho resident, was sentenced on July 25, 2016, on one count of insurance fraud for filing a false claim with her insurance carrier, USAA. The Idaho Department of Insurance fraud unit investigated the claim.

Monroe reported that her diamond engagement ring fell off her hand and into a storm drain while she was getting into her car. USAA paid her \$2,955 for the ring. Department of Insurance investigators discovered that Monroe had pawned the ring and that it was still in the pawn shop when the claim was filed. Investigators also learned that she had pawned the same ring at least twice after receiving the claim money.

Monroe was charged with one count of insurance fraud and one count of theft by extortion. She pleaded guilty to one count of insurance fraud and was sentenced in Ada County. She was granted a withheld judgment and placed on felony supervised probation for three years, and was also ordered to pay a fine of \$1,240,50 and serve 20 days in jail.

Department Director Dean Cameron says, "A fraudulent claim may not seem like a big deal on the surface. But according to FBI estimates, insurance fraud costs the average U.S. family between \$400 and \$700 per year in the form of increased premiums."

This case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Nicole Schafer of the Idaho Attorney General's Insurance Crimes Unit.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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