

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone (208)334-4250
Fax (208)334-4398
Website: <http://www.doi.idaho.gov>

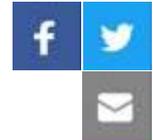
DEAN L. CAMERON
Director

Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

For immediate release, April 10, 2018

Contact: Jes Benson, 208-334-4312

jessica.benson@doi.idaho.gov



Boise Man Sentenced for Insurance Fraud

(Boise) – Attorney General Lawrence Wasden has announced an Ada County man was sentenced Friday, March 9, for one count of Insurance Fraud. Fourth District Judge Michael Reardon sentenced 36-year-old Benjamin Mokhtarani, of Boise, after he pleaded guilty in January.

Judge Reardon imposed a four year prison sentence, then suspended the sentence and placed Mokhtarani on four years of supervised probation. The judge also ordered the defendant to serve 60 days in jail and 200 hours of community service. Mokhtarani was ordered to pay restitution to the Idaho Department of Insurance in the amount of \$520, a fine of \$2,500 and court costs.

In December 2015, Mokhtarani sustained damage to his vehicle and submitted a claim to State Farm Insurance. He received a payout of \$2,777 but never made repairs to the damage. On August 1, 2016, Mokhtarani submitted a second claim for the same damage. State Farm denied his claim and referred the matter to the Department of Insurance. Mokhtarani admitted to a department investigator that he did not repair his vehicle with the money from the first claim.

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

Deputy Attorney General Nicole Schafer in the Attorney General’s Special Prosecutions Unit prosecuted the case.

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.