

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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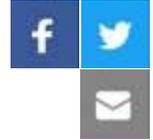
DEAN L. CAMERON
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Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Former Kootenai County Resident Sentenced for Insurance Fraud

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden has announced an Oregon woman was sentenced Thursday, April 26, for one count of Insurance Fraud. First District Judge Lansing Haynes sentenced 29-year-old Laila Hiza, of Astoria, Oregon, after she pleaded guilty in August 2017.

Judge Haynes sentenced Hiza to a unified sentence of two years with one year fixed and one year indeterminate. The judge then suspended the sentence and ordered two years of felony probation. Hiza was ordered to serve 150 hours of community service and pay restitution costs of \$348 to the Idaho Department of Insurance. Judge Haynes also ordered her to pay court costs of \$638 from a previous DUI case.

An investigation determined that, while living in Coeur d'Alene in August 2015, Hiza struck a motorcycle as she backed out of a parking space. At the time, her vehicle was uninsured. She and the owner of the motorcycle then conspired to report a false date for the accident. After calling to initiate a new policy on her car, both Hiza and the owner of the motorcycle provided the false date to the insurance company.

"Insurance fraud is a felony, and is a major contributor to rising insurance prices for everyone – insurance companies, policy holders, and consumers," says Department Director Dean Cameron. "Conservatively, fraud steals \$80 billion a year across all lines of insurance."

The case was investigated by the Department of Insurance and prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Jessica Cafferty in the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions 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 doi.idaho.gov.