

*State of Idaho*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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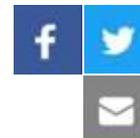
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**Idaho Department of Insurance News Release**

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## **Two Lewiston Men Sentenced for Insurance Fraud in Unrelated Cases**

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden has announced the successful prosecution of two Idaho men accused of [Insurance Fraud](#).

48-year-old Michael T. Wilson and 39-year-old Jason L. Knabe, both of Lewiston, were sentenced on Wednesday, July 11, in unrelated cases. Wilson pleaded guilty to one count of Insurance Fraud in May. Knabe pleaded guilty to one count of Insurance Fraud in April. Second District Court Judge Jay Gaskill sentenced Wilson to a unified sentence of three years, which was then suspended in favor of three years probation. Wilson was also ordered to serve 40 days in the county jail with 30 days suspended. Judge Gaskill also ordered Wilson to pay \$908 in restitution to the Idaho Department of Insurance to cover investigative costs, and \$362 in restitution to GEICO.

An Idaho Department of Insurance investigation determined that Wilson filed a false claim with GEICO in June 2015. In the claim, he reported his car was damaged in a collision with a deer on June 9, 2015. The claim was false, as investigators determined Wilson had damaged his car in an accident on June 3, 2015, two days before his GEICO policy took effect.

Second District Judge Jeff Brudie sentenced Knabe to a unified sentence of three years, which was suspended in favor of two years probation. Knabe was also ordered to serve 90 days in the county jail with 30 days suspended. Judge Brudie also ordered Knabe to pay court costs, as well as \$636 in restitution to the state Department of Insurance.

Department of Insurance investigators determined Knabe filed a claim with Farmers Insurance in July 2015. In the claim, he alleged property damage, repair costs and cleanup costs due to water damage in his home. It was Knabe's second insurance claim in 2015 for water damage to his home. When asked to provide receipts to prove the listed personal items were new and not the previously damaged items, Mr. Knabe provided a false receipt. He did not provide any receipts for repairs or cleanup.

Both cases were prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Jessica Cafferty in the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Unit.

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**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 serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit [doi.idaho.gov](http://doi.idaho.gov).