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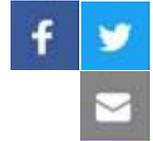
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Fraud Investigation Leads to Prosecution of Local Trucking Operator
Shannan C. Norris jeopardized her own drivers by leaving them uninsured

BOISE, ID – A fraud investigation initiated by the Idaho Department of Insurance helped lead to the criminal prosecution of a local trucking company owner who pocketed insurance premiums, putting at risk three of her own drivers who unknowingly operated their rigs without insurance on public highways. Based on a consumer tip, DOI investigators teamed with the State Attorney General's Office to build a case against Shannan C. Norris of Caldwell, who agreed to plead guilty to one count of insurance fraud in Adams County Court on October 16.

Norris, who co-owned and operated Trail Riders Transport, LLC in Caldwell, was found to have collected insurance premiums from three of her drivers but failed to turn the funds over to the insurance company. Her callous actions allowed the truckers to operate their vehicles on public roads for a period of four months without any insurance coverage. She also admitted to forging at least one insurance identification card as part of her scheme.

District Judge Christopher Nye sentenced Norris to a prison term of five years, with two years fixed. Judge Nye suspended the sentence and placed Norris on probation for five years, with 180 days of discretionary jail time. She also was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, and to pay \$6,294 in restitution to the drivers she scammed.

"Fortunately, these unknowing victims [the drivers] were not involved in any type of serious accident while legally operating their vehicles," said Director Dean Cameron. "I am grateful our investigators played a key role in helping to bring Ms. Norris to justice."

The guilty plea entered by Norris prohibits her from applying for a Department of Transportation (DOT) number, lease or contract with any owner-operators, or providing insurance on any vehicle not belonging to her.

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.

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