

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

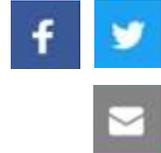
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Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

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Nampa man fabricates bill of sale on his \$700 Mercedes

BOISE, ID – Effective February 14, 2020, William R. Hester was sentenced for insurance fraud in violation of Idaho Code.

William R. Hester purchased a 1992 Mercedes for \$700 and then added the vehicle to an existing policy with Geico. Mr. Hester filed a claim for damages done to the vehicle caused by the hood flying up while driving. In the claims process, he fabricated his own bill of sale, listed the price of \$3,750, stated the vehicle was in excellent condition, and signed as the purported seller.

GEICO found the seller who provided the actual bill of sale of \$700 and stated that she advised Mr. Hester of the vehicle's damage to the hood. Mr. Hester admitted to investigators with the Department of Insurance that he knew about the vehicle's damage and forged a bill of sale.

"Foolish actions like this cost Idahoans their hard-earned money," said Director Cameron. "I'm proud of our Investigations Division for their hard work and diligence in the case."

Fourth District Court Judge Jason Scott ordered a one year fixed sentence. The court then suspended the sentence and placed Mr. Hester on one year of unsupervised probation. Mr. Hester is ordered to serve 100 hours of community service and pay a fine of \$500 plus court costs. He is also ordered to pay \$453 in restitution to the Idaho Department of Insurance and \$836 to GEICO. The Office of the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Unit prosecuted this 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 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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