



Media Release

**For Immediate Release
July 30, 2024**

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Sumter Woman Arrested and Charged with Presenting False Insurance Claim

Columbia, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Insurance (SCDOI) has announced that Cynthia Renita Washington has been arrested and charged with presenting a false insurance claim in Sumter County. The arrest took place on July 26, 2024, after an investigation determined that Washington made a fraudulent claim for over \$2,000 in damages to GEICO Secure Insurance Co. Authorities allege Ms. Washington reported being in a collision that did not occur while responding to a fatal illness of a family member that also did not occur. This charge will be prosecuted by the Insurance Fraud Division of the South Carolina Department of Insurance.

“We want to make it clear that creating fake scenarios and reporting false claims to insurance companies will not be tolerated in South Carolina,” said Joshua Underwood, Director of the Insurance Fraud Division at the South Carolina Department of Insurance. “We encourage citizens to get involved and report suspicious activity. These fraudulent claims result in increased premiums for everyone in our state, and we need to work together to put a stop to them.” Underwood stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

[Insurance fraud](#) occurs when an insurance company, agent, adjuster, or consumer commits a deliberate deception to obtain an illegitimate gain. The Insurance Fraud Division reviews complaints and referrals of potential insurance fraud and, on behalf of the South Carolina Attorney General, prosecutes insurance fraud related crimes across the state. If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed, you can report it online [here](#) or call the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 888-95-FRAUD (888-953-7283).

