



Monday, February 25, 2013

Ohio Sees Over 7,000 Claims of Insurance Fraud

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/midwest/2013/02/25/223740.htm>

Ohio's Department of Insurance says it processed more than 7,000 allegations of agent misconduct and insurance fraud last year.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the state's insurance director, said the department identified more than 700 civil and criminal violations of Ohio insurance law and took administrative action against 167 insurance agents and agencies.

The department also assessed \$134,900 in fines and referred 71 individuals for prosecution.

In one case, the state revoked the license of a man in December after an investigation revealed he failed to submit a client's annuity application and investment to the insurer. Instead, he deposited the client's \$30,000 check into his own bank account.

Taylor says the agency is working to raise awareness about the consequences of insurance fraud, while fighting the crime.



Monday, February 25, 2013

Insurance fraud claims topped 7,200 in Ohio

http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/blog/morning_call/2013/02/insurance-fraud-claims-topped-7200-ohio.html

Claims of insurance fraud or agent misconduct topped 7,200 in Ohio last year, according to the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also heads up the department, reported that in 2012 the department processed 7,274 allegations of agent misconduct and insurance fraud, initiated 2,310 investigations, identified more than 700 civil and criminal violations of Ohio insurance law, took administrative action against 167 insurance agents and agencies, assessed \$134,900 in fines and referred 71 individuals for prosecution.

"The Ohio Department of insurance is aggressively fighting insurance fraud to protect consumers and our competitive insurance market," Taylor said. "We are working closely with law enforcement to bring offenders to justice while raising awareness about the consequences of committing this serious crime."

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Ohio Insurance Fraud Claims Topped 7,200 Last Year

Ohio counted 7,274 claims of insurance fraud or agent misconduct in 2012, the *Dayton Business Journal* reports.

The Ohio Department of Insurance and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor initiated more than 2,300 investigations, identified more than 700 civil and criminal violations, assessed \$134,900 in fines and referred 71 people for prosecution, according to a year-end report.

“The Ohio Department of insurance is aggressively fighting insurance fraud to protect consumers and our competitive insurance market,” Taylor said in a press release. “We are working closely with law enforcement to bring offenders to justice while raising awareness about the consequences of committing this serious crime.

Portsmouth Daily Times

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Local Insurance Agent Has License Revoked

http://www.portsmouth-dailytimes.com/view/full_story/21801326/article-Local-insurance-agent-has-license-revoked

Lieutenant Governor and Department of Insurance Director Mary Taylor has released the department's top fraud and enforcement cases for 2012 and one involves a Scioto County resident.

Under the headline - “Agent deceives clients for commissions,” Taylor said the department revoked the insurance license of Allen Bell of Portsmouth in March of 2012 after a department investigation found Bell forged signatures of six Ohio clients and submitted altered insurance applications for two Ohio clients to secretly earn sales commissions.

Taylor said during the calendar year the department processed 7,274 allegations of agent misconduct and insurance fraud, initiated 2,310 investigations, identified more than 700 civil and criminal violations of Ohio insurance law, took administrative action against 167 insurance agents and agencies, assessed \$134,900 in fines and referred 71 individuals for prosecution.

“The Ohio Department of Insurance is aggressively fighting insurance fraud to protect consumers and our competitive insurance market,” Taylor said. “We are working closely with law enforcement to bring offenders to justice while raising awareness about the consequences of committing this serious crime.”

Taylor said before Ohioans buy insurance products from an insurance agent or agency, they should contact the ODI at 800-686-1526 to ensure they are properly licensed. She said consumers are also encouraged to call 800-686-1527 if they feel they have been deceived or suspect someone has committed insurance fraud.



Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Newton Falls Agent Among Top Ohio Insurance Actions

<http://businessjournaldaily.com/banking-finance/newton-falls-agent-among-top-ohio-insurance-actions-2013-2-25>

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A Newton Falls woman's failure to pay customer claims in a timely manner has landed her among the top fraud and enforcement cases for the Ohio Department of Insurance last year. Agent Pamela Priddy last year was assessed a \$35,000 civil penalty and a \$15,000 administrative fee.

During the calendar year, the department processed 7,274 allegations of agent misconduct and insurance fraud, initiated 2,310 investigations, identified more than 700 civil and criminal violations of Ohio insurance law, took administrative action against 167 insurance agents and agencies, assessed \$134,900 in fines and referred 71 individuals for prosecution, according to Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, director of the department.

"The Ohio Department of insurance is aggressively fighting insurance fraud to protect consumers and our competitive insurance market," Taylor said. "We are working closely with law enforcement to bring offenders to justice while raising awareness about the consequences of committing this serious crime."

Priddy, owner of two third-party administrator companies, ranked second on the list of enforcement actions after an investigation determined that she failed to pay clients' claims in a timely manner and withheld administrative charges from claim funds.

The top spot in the enforcement category went to Willard Lee of Mansfield in Richland County, after an investigation revealed he had misappropriated approximately \$1.1 million from several clients by withdrawing money from their annuities. His insurance license was revoked.

In the category of fraud, the No. 1 case is a scheme by former title insurance agent Steven Connolly of Copley in Summit County. A joint department and FBI investigation determined Connolly diverted funds from property transactions to his personal bank account. A judge assigned to the U.S. District Court of Northern Ohio ordered Connolly to serve five years in federal prison, three years of post-release control and pay \$1 million in restitution.

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