

COUNTY OF YOLO OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 27, 2017 Contact: YCDA Investigator Kristine Fitzgerald

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West Sacramento Woman Convicted of Auto Insurance Fraud

(Woodland, CA) - January 27, 2017 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on January 25, 2017, 31-year-old West Sacramento woman Tiffany Beckingham pled no contest to felony charges of filing a fraudulent auto insurance claim.

Tiffany Beckingham's car was involved in a collision on October 11, 2015, in West Sacramento, CA. At that time Beckingham did not have auto insurance coverage for her car. The car's OnStar safety service called the West Sacramento Police Department. Officers found her car abandoned and later impounded it. After a 91 day lapse in insurance coverage, Beckingham's insurance policy was reissued on October 23, 2015. Three days later on October 26, 2015, Beckingham phoned Geico Insurance and filed a claim stating that she was involved in a collision where she struck an animal and hit the curb line of a roundabout causing significant damage to the front left of her car in Fairfield, CA. Beckingham's time line of events were inconsistent with all other facts in the case.

Beckingham later admitted to Yolo County District Attorney Investigator Kristine Fitzgerald that the damage to the car occurred in West Sacramento on October 11, 2015. Beckingham also admitted to filing the claim to Geico Insurance after having her insurance policy reissued and stating that all of the damage to the car occurred in Fairfield, when in fact the damage occurred in West Sacramento.

Purchasing an insurance policy after a collision has occurred and reporting that a collision took place after the inception of the policy is a crime. Insurance Fraud is the second most costly white-collar crime in America behind tax evasion. Insurance industry studies show that about ten percent or more claims are fraudulent. As a result, insurance fraud costs Americans billions of dollars each year. District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated that, "Filing false insurance claims and insurance fraud have an effect on the cost of auto insurance for everyone. We are committed to combating this type of fraud in our community."

If you suspect someone is committing Auto Insurance Fraud please contact the DA's Fraud Hot Line phone number at (855) 496-5632. Reports of suspected fraud can also be made online at http://yoloda.org/fraud-reporting/. The District Attorney's Office also has a "Fraud Reporting Email Address": Fraud@yoloda.org.

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