



K a n s a s I n s u r a n c e D e p a r t m e n t

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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COMMISSIONER PRAEGER EXPANDS ANTI-FRAUD EFFORT

More Than 250 Cases Under Investigation by Insurance Department

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger today announced the expansion of the Department's movement to investigate insurance fraud and educate Kansas consumers about protecting themselves from illegal activity. Jerry Wells has been appointed Director of the newly created Anti-Fraud Division. Previously, he served as Director of Government Affairs and Special Counsel to the Commissioner. Wells is a former Douglas County District Attorney and Executive Director of the Koch Crime Institute.

"Jerry Wells has the expertise and the passion to help protect Kansas consumers and businesses from fraudulent insurance activity," said Commissioner Praeger. "Unfortunately, we're seeing an escalating volume of complaints regarding insurance fraud in Kansas. By focusing our efforts to both combat crime and enhance consumer education, we hope to send a clear message throughout the state that we mean business when it comes to fighting insurance cons and schemes."

"The Department is currently investigating more than 250 cases in all four corners of the state involving everything from forgery to false claims," said Wells. "This unlawful activity costs honest consumers and businesses thousands of dollars. Our goal is to work with local, state and federal officials to bring these criminals to justice. We also plan to provide educational events throughout the state to help Kansans learn how to protect themselves from all forms of insurance fraud."

The Department's Anti-Fraud Division has two attorneys, two investigators and an administrative assistant. In addition, seven Kansas Insurance Department staff attorneys, led by Chief Legal Counsel John Campbell, will also collaborate with fraud investigation cases.

Community education forums focusing on fraud protection are being planned throughout the state and will also be highlighted during a Department exhibit at the Kansas State Fair.

Anyone who suspects an insurance crime has been committed is encouraged to call the Kansas Insurance Departments' Consumer Hotline at 1-800-432-2484.

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