



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Insurance Agent Mikel Pruitt Sentenced

TOPEKA, KS – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Praeger, in cooperation with the Kansas Attorney General's Office, has filed charges in Russell County District Court against a Russell, Kansas insurance agent.

Initial charges against Mikel K. Pruitt were filed on September 22, 2004 with an Amended Complaint/Information filed on December 9, 2004. At that time, Pruitt pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud on a life insurance application and one count of theft by deception.

After selling the insured a replacement life insurance policy for \$200,000, Pruitt, who had been licensed to sell insurance since April 1994, submitted to his company a "life insurance company service request" on the old life insurance policy. The service request stated that Pruitt was a "business associate" of the insured and asked to change ownership of the \$100,000 policy to himself. Further, Pruitt arranged for the premiums to be paid by him. Two months later, Pruitt submitted an application to make himself the one and only beneficiary.

On March 1, 2005, Pruitt was sentenced to six months in jail on each count to run concurrently. In addition, the Court imposed a \$500 fine, plus costs.

Pruitt's insurance license was revoked by the Kansas Insurance Department on October 25, 2004.

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About the Kansas Insurance Commissioner

Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, oversees the activities of the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) which is headquartered in Topeka, Kansas. The overriding objective of Commissioner Praeger and KID is to protect consumers, and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry. KID regulates and monitors the activities of 23,000 resident agents, 42,000 non-resident agents and 1684 insurance companies licensed to do business in the state of Kansas. The Department offers financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. For more information, visit www.ksinsurance.org.