



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas Resident Marci A. Peden, Goodland, Pleads Guilty to Insurance Fraud and other Charges

TOPEKA, KS – Marci A. Peden of Goodland, Kansas has pleaded guilty to charges that arose out of a criminal case filed in Sherman County District Court in July 2005. An investigation by Commissioner Sandy Praeger's Anti-Fraud Division led to the charges being filed against Peden.

Peden was originally charged with one felony count of Insurance Fraud and one misdemeanor count of Falsely Reporting a Crime. In early November 2003, Peden falsely reported a burglary of her Goodland home to the Sherman County Sheriff's Office. Peden reported that unknown persons had broken into her home, caused criminal damage and had stolen money. Subsequently, a claim was made to Peden's insurance company for losses sustained as a result of the residential burglary.

On February 28, 2006 Ms. Peden pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor charge of Insurance Fraud, one misdemeanor charge of Falsely Reporting a Crime and one misdemeanor charge of Obstruction of Official Duty. Ms. Peden was sentenced to one and one-half (1½) years in the Sherman County Jail and then was placed on supervised probation for twelve (12) months.

Conditions of Ms. Peden's probation also include the payment of court costs, the reimbursement to the Kansas Insurance Department for the costs of prosecution and full restitution in the amount of \$4,579.33 to the National Farmers Union Insurance Company.

Commissioner Praeger has taken a strong stand against insurance fraud. Anyone suspecting insurance fraud by an individual policyholder, agent, or company is encouraged to contact the Kansas Insurance Department Consumer Assistance Hotline at 1-800-432-2484.

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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.