



# Kansas Insurance Department

**Sandy Praeger**

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 7, 2005**

*For more information, contact:*  
Charlene Bailey  
785.296.7807

## **Kansas Resident Kassandra M. Tidwell, Topeka, Found Guilty on Insurance Fraud Charges**

TOPEKA, KS – Kassandra M. Tidwell, of Topeka, Kansas, has pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that arose from a criminal case filed in Shawnee County District Court in June of 2004. An investigation by Commissioner Sandy Praeger's Anti-Fraud Division led to charges that were filed against Tidwell.

Ms. Tidwell was originally charged with committing one felony count of a Fraudulent Insurance Act. The allegations involved incidents that occurred in July and August of 2003 in which Ms. Tidwell's 1996 Ford Explorer was taken by her friends, stripped and sent down a ravine into a wooded area in Wabaunsee County. Her friends returned the personal property and stereo equipment taken from Ms. Tidwell's vehicle. Ms. Tidwell reported the Explorer as stolen and submitted a claim for the loss to her insurance company.

On February 28, 2006 Ms. Tidwell pleaded no contest and was found guilty of one misdemeanor charge of Fraudulent Insurance Act and one misdemeanor charge of Falsely Reporting a Crime. Ms. Tidwell was sentenced to twelve (12) months in the Shawnee County Jail and was then placed on supervised probation for a period of twelve (12) months.

In addition to standard conditions of probation, Ms. Tidwell must pay \$4,163.40 in restitution to the Cincinnati Insurance Company. Ms. Tidwell is also ordered to perform fifty (50) hours of community service work.

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.

###

### **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](http://www.ksinsurance.org).