

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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INSURANCE COMMISSIONER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCE AN INDICTMENT FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

CONCORD, NH, July 17, 2007 — Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte and Insurance Commissioner Roger A. Seigny announced today the indictment of Wellington H. Potter for one count of Insurance Fraud, under RSA 638:20.

Wellington H. Potter, age 59, of Jefferson, NH, was indicted on one count of Insurance Fraud, a Class A Felony, on July 9, 2007, by the Coos County Grand Jury. The indictment alleges that pursuant to one scheme or course of conduct, Wellington Potter made a claim under his homeowner's insurance policy with Vermont Mutual Insurance Company for payment for replacement of items damaged in a house fire. According to the indictment, the insurance policy required that the items actually be replaced in order to receive the payment and Wellington Potter was aware of this provision. In support of this claim for payment, the indictment states, Wellington Potter purposely presented or caused to be presented certain documents to Vermont Mutual, including two letters and related attachments. The indictment alleges that the first letter was presented on or about July 9, 2006 and the second letter was presented on or about September 13, 2006. According to the indictment, both letters contained attachments that purported to be invoices for items purchased from various retailers, but, actually, these purchases had not been made. The indictment alleges that Wellington Potter knew that the documents contained false, incomplete or misleading information and this false, incomplete or misleading information was material to his claim for payment. In providing these documents, Wellington Potter's purpose was to deceive or defraud Vermont Mutual, according to the indictment.

An arraignment date has been scheduled for July 20, 2007 at the Coos County Superior Court.

The charge is a Class A felony which carries a maximum penalty of 7 ½-15 years incarceration and a fine of \$4000 or an amount not to exceed double the amount of property gained in the commission of a felony.

“Insurance fraud increases the cost of insurance for all New Hampshire consumers,” stressed Insurance Commissioner Sevigny. Attorney General Ayotte said “The Attorney General’s Office will actively investigate and vigorously prosecute insurance fraud cases to deter persons from engaging in these offenses. Law abiding citizens should not have to pay extra for insurance because others defraud their insurance company.”

The indictment is the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Attorney General’s Office and the Insurance Department Fraud Investigation Unit. Pursuant to RSA 417:23, the Fraud Unit was formed to investigate Insurance Fraud and other insurance-related criminal activity.

For further information contact Attorney Catherine Tucker at 271-7987.

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ABOUT THE NH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The first insurance regulator in the US, the NH Insurance Department was created in 1851 and charged with enforcing and administering New Hampshire’s insurance laws. The department, an agency of the executive branch of New Hampshire state government, conducts safety and soundness and market conduct examinations of licensees; licenses insurance companies, insurance producers and others; reviews premium rates and policy forms; provides assistance, information and referral services to New Hampshire insurance consumers; and administers the filing and collection of New Hampshire’s insurance premium tax. For more information, visit the New Hampshire Insurance Department’s web site at: www.nh.gov/insurance.