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## For Immediate Release

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## INSURANCE COMMISSIONER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCE INDICTMENTS FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

**March 2, 2009 - Concord, New Hampshire** - Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte and Insurance Commissioner Roger A. Seigny announced today the indictment of Lori A. Smith for one count of Insurance Fraud relative to an automobile insurance claim.

Smith, age 42, of Lebanon, NH, was indicted by the Grafton County Grand Jury on one count of Insurance Fraud, as defined under RSA 638:20. The indictment alleges that around 9:06 A.M. on October 6, 2008, Smith knowingly obtained an automobile insurance policy with Progressive Northern Insurance Co (“Progressive”) for her vehicle. The indictment further alleges that pursuant to this insurance policy, Smith made a claim for payment for damage to this vehicle. On or about October 7, 2008, according to the indictment, Smith spoke to a representative from Progressive over the telephone. The indictment alleges that during this phone call, Smith said that the damage happened “last night” when she swerved to miss hitting a deer on Moose Mountain Road. Actually, the damage had been sustained before Smith purchased the insurance policy, according to the indictment, and Smith’s purpose was to deceive or defraud Progressive.

This charge is a Class A felony which carries a maximum penalty of 7½-15 years incarceration, or a fine of \$4000, or both.

“For the benefit of all law abiding New Hampshire residents and businesses, the Insurance Department’s Fraud Unit will continue to aggressively investigate insurance fraud,” stressed Insurance Commissioner Seigny. Attorney General Ayotte said, “My office will continue to work closely with Commissioner Seigny’s Fraud Unit in order to protect the financial interests of all New Hampshire residents and businesses.”

This 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.

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