

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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March 11, 2009 - Attorney General Kelly A. Ayotte and Insurance Commissioner Roger A. Seigny announced today the indictment of Kristie J. Smith for one count of Insurance Fraud relative to an automobile insurance claim.

Smith, age 21, of Pittsfield, New Hampshire, was indicted by the Belknap County Grand Jury on one count of Insurance Fraud, as defined under RSA 638:20. The indictment alleges the following: On July 24, 2008, Smith renewed an automobile insurance policy with Progressive Direct Insurance Company (“Progressive”). Pursuant to this insurance policy, Smith made a claim for payment for damage to her vehicle. On or about July 25, 2008, Smith spoke to a representative from Progressive over the telephone and stated that she had called to renew the policy before the damage to her vehicle occurred. Smith knew that the damage actually was sustained before she called to renew the insurance policy and her purpose was to defraud or deceive Progressive. The value of the fraudulent portion of the claim for payment or other benefit was greater than \$1,000.

Arraignment has been scheduled for March 12, 2009 at the Belknap County Superior Court. The charge is a class A Felony, which carries a maximum penalty of 7½-15 years incarceration, or a fine of \$4000, or both.

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 Investigation Unit was formed to investigate Insurance Fraud and other insurance-related criminal activity.

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