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Vermont Resident Pleads Guilty to Felony Insurance Fraud

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Insurance Department announces that Heather Impey of South Royalton, Vt., was charged and convicted of felony insurance fraud.

At 7:20 a.m. on November 18, Impey, 31, rear-ended another driver in Lebanon, NH. Impey did not have auto insurance at the time, but at 7:51 a.m., she purchased a policy online from Progressive.

The following day, Impey called Progressive and claimed that the accident had occurred at 10:20 a.m. When Progressive spoke with the other driver, the woman told Progressive that Impey had called her and asked her to lie to Progressive about the time of the accident. The woman was able to prove the real time of the accident because she had sent a text message at 7:23 a.m. telling someone of the crash.

“Insurance fraud is a crime that hurts us all,” said NH Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “It affects insurance companies, but it also affects New Hampshire residents, who end up paying higher premiums. The Insurance Department’s Fraud Investigation Unit works hard to protect consumers by prosecuting those who break the law.”

When Progressive contacted Impey again to ask her about the time of the accident, Impey again lied, saying she had gone to work at 8 a.m., then left for a while, and that the accident had occurred while she was returning to work. Insurance Department Senior Investigator Brendhan Harris then interviewed Impey, and she admitted that she had lied to Progressive.

“We are constantly investigating and convicting individuals for this same fraud scheme,” Harris said. “They all seem to think they can get away with it, but they can’t.”

Impey’s insurance fraud amounts to \$1,857.09. On December 10, she was sentenced in Grafton County Superior Court to 12 months in jail, suspended on good behavior.

The New Hampshire Insurance Fraud Investigation Unit investigates and prosecutes insurance fraud and other insurance-related crimes. To report a suspected case of insurance fraud, visit www.nh.gov/insurance and click on “Report Insurance Fraud.”

The New Hampshire Insurance Department’s mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.

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