



Media Release

For Immediate Release
July 1, 2024

Contact: Diane Cooper
803-737-6148

Florence County Man Pleads Guilty to Insurance Fraud – Ordered to Pay Restitution

Columbia, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Insurance (SCDOI) has announced that Marcus Blair of Florence County has pled guilty to seven indictments after being arrested and charged with over fifty violations of law earlier this year. The arrests were the result of a Joint Investigation by the South Carolina Department of Insurance (DOI), South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, (SLED) and the Florence County Sheriff’s Office, Marcus Blair was arrested and charged with over fifty violations of law.

Mr. Blair has a record of 18 prior convictions and was serving an active sentence in the Department of Corrections when he became of interest to the investigation team. During the investigation it was discovered that he was using a contraband cell phone to commit new frauds from his cell in prison.

Upon his release from prison, he continued his fraudulent activities and active surveillance by SLED Agents and Florence County Deputies resulted in a search warrant of his residence. Hundreds of documents, fake checks, false ID cards, cell phone records, computers and emails were seized. Mr. Blair was arrested and issued 52 warrants for numerous crimes ranging from multiple counts of Obtaining Goods by False Pretenses, Forgery, Making False Claims for Payment of Insurance, Financial Identity Fraud and Financial Transaction Fraud.

After arrest, it was confirmed that Marcus Blair had attempted to fraudulently obtain a total of \$574,531 and was successful in collecting \$139,126.98 in money and goods. On June 28th, 2024, Mr. Blair pled guilty before Judge Debra McCaslin at the Florence County Courthouse to seven indictments. Two counts of Presenting a False Claim for Payment over \$10,000, one count of Financial Identity Fraud, one count of Presenting False Claims for Payment less than \$2,000, one count of Presenting False Claims for Payment more than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000, and two counts of Obtaining Goods Under False Pretenses over \$10,000. The Judge sentenced him to ten years of incarceration, all sentences to run concurrently. He is also required to pay restitution of \$139,126.98 to the victims whom he successfully defrauded.

[Insurance fraud](#) occurs when an insurance company, agent, adjuster, or consumer commits a deliberate deception to obtain an illegitimate gain. The Insurance Fraud Division reviews complaints and referrals of potential insurance fraud and, on behalf of the South Carolina Attorney General, prosecutes insurance fraud related crimes across the state. If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed, you can report it online [here](#) or call the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 888-95-FRAUD (888-953-7283).

