



Media Release

**For Immediate Release
February 28, 2023**

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SCDOI and SLED Announce Arrest of Bamberg County Man for Fraud

COLUMBIA, SC – The South Carolina Department of Insurance (SCDOI) and The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) have announced the arrest of an individual for allegedly committing insurance fraud in Olar, South Carolina, located in Bamberg County.

Rusty Dale Peebles was arrested on February 24, 2023 for insurance fraud offenses. Peebles is charged with one count of Presenting a False Claim for an Insurance Payment, value greater than \$2,000 but less than \$10,000 and one count of Burning Personal Property to Defraud an Insurer. Each of these charges carries a potential maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

On December 28, 2020, while at his residence in Olar, Peebles reported to the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office that his vehicle was stolen from his residence. On the same date, the vehicle was located on the side of the road in a different location in Olar and found to be on fire. Peebles submitted a claim for payment to his insurer, South Carolina Farm Bureau, for the loss of his stolen vehicle. In subsequent interviews with investigators from South Carolina Farm Bureau and SLED, the defendant admitted to intentionally setting his vehicle on fire due to a mechanical issue and then falsely reporting that the vehicle was stolen.

The case was investigated by SLED and will be prosecuted by the Insurance Fraud Division within the SCDOI.

"SCDOI and SLED are working diligently to stop insurance fraud in our state," said Joshua Underwood, Director of the SCDOI's Insurance Fraud Division. "We are optimistic that by increasing efforts to identify and prosecute cases of insurance fraud, would-be-criminals will think twice before committing fraud, knowing it is very likely that they will be caught and prosecuted."

Underwood stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed, you can report it [here](#) to the SCDOI or call the Insurance Fraud Hotline at 888-95-FRAUD (888-953-7283).

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