



Media Release

For Immediate Release
November 6, 2024

Contact: **Diane Cooper**
803-737-6148

Florence Man Sentenced After Targeting Elderly Drivers

Florence, S.C. – Cornelius Jones, 44, was sentenced this week after pleading guilty to Presenting False Claims for Insurance Payment in a prolonged scheme targeting elderly drivers. Jones was sentenced by the Honorable Michael Nettles to eighteen months in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, followed by three and a half years of probation. He was also ordered to pay \$15,983.04 in restitution to his victims.

Jones's conviction concludes an investigation that includes fifteen incidents. Jones would target elderly drivers in business parking lots by either driving or walking into the back of the victims' cars as they were pulling out of parking spaces. He would then pretend to be injured to receive an undeserved insurance payout or to directly extort cash from the victims. Between 2020 and 2022 Jones collected \$14,210 from insurance payments and caused an additional \$1,773 damage to the victims' cars.

“This case highlights the Insurance Fraud Division's commitment to hold accountable those who exploit consumers and the insurance industry, leading to higher premiums across the state,” said South Carolina Department of Insurance Director, Michael Wise.

This case was investigated by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Florence Police Department, and the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant Attorney General Jason Allen of the Insurance Fraud Division of the South Carolina Department of Insurance.

Consumers who suspect insurance fraud should report it to the South Carolina Department of Insurance's Fraud Division by calling 1-800-95-FRAUD.

