



# INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**John F. King**

Commissioner of Insurance  
Safety Fire Commissioner  
Industrial Loan Commissioner  
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For Immediate Release  
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## **CHEROKEE COUNTY SUSPECT ARRESTED FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL INSURANCE FRAUD**

**ATLANTA** – Today, Special Agents with the Criminal Investigations Division of the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office arrested Steven Eric Chastain, 58, of Canton, Georgia. [Chastain was wanted for two counts of Theft by Conversion](#) for events that occurred in Dougherty County following Hurricane Michael. He is currently in the Fulton County Jail awaiting a bond hearing.

A local Albany, Georgia business suffered significant damage as a result of Hurricane Michael in October of 2018. The owner of said business hired Steven Eric Chastain, owner of Nationwide Public Adjusters, to handle his claim. Throughout the course of handling the claim, Chastain is accused of taking multiple checks for the sum of roughly \$217,000 from the insurance company without sending them to his client.

“This man is accused of taking complete advantage of his client in a time when they desperately needed someone to rely on. These types of acts will not be tolerated in this state,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “I am very proud of my investigators who put many hours into this case and I would like to thank the Atlanta Police Department for helping us transport this individual. We expect additional charges to be brought forth against him as well.”

A Felony Theft by Conversion charge is punishable by imprisonment for one to ten years. To report suspected insurance fraud, contact the Georgia Department of Insurance at 800-656-2298. Callers can choose to remain anonymous.



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