



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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CHEROKEE COUNTY SUSPECT WANTED FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL INSURANCE FRAUD

ATLANTA – Special Agents with the Criminal Investigations Division of the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office are currently searching for information regarding the whereabouts of Steven Eric Chastain, 58, of Canton, Georgia. Chastain is wanted for two counts of Theft by Conversion for events that occurred in Dougherty County following Hurricane Michael.

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.

“The role of public adjusters is to look out for their client’s best interests in the filing and handling of a claim, not to line their own pockets,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “My office will not stand for Georgians being taken advantage of, especially in times of desperate need like this. **If you have any information on the whereabouts of this individual, please call our Criminal Investigations Division at 404-463-6363.**”

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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