



# INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**John F. King**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
Safety Fire Commissioner  
Industrial Loan Commissioner  
Twitter: @GA\_DOI  
Facebook: @GeorgiaDOI  
Instagram: @GeorgiaDOI

For Immediate Release  
March 6, 2020

Contact: Brandon Wright  
Office: 404-463-0729

### **FULTON COUNTY MAN ARRESTED FOR INSURANCE FRAUD**

**ATLANTA** – Special Agents in the Criminal Investigations Division at the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office recently assisted with the arrest of Dewain Tharpe, 40, of Atlanta, Georgia, after he turned himself into the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office on March 4. Tharpe faces eight counts of Forgery in the First Degree and three counts of Insurance Fraud. He posted bond on March 5 and was subsequently released.

“During early 2017, Tharpe allegedly submitted various forged documents to USAA, GEICO, and State Farm in an attempt to gain insurance payments related to car accidents. To obtain said payments, he also allegedly forged individuals’ signatures,” said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. “He received a total of \$12,500.00 before additional insurance companies caught onto his scheme and denied his claims.”

Insurance fraud is a felony punishable by imprisonment for two to ten years, or by a fine of up to \$10,000.00, or both. To report suspected insurance fraud, contact the Georgia Department of Insurance’s Criminal Investigations Division at 800-656-2298. Callers can choose to remain anonymous.



###