

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

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ONE SUSPECT ARRESTED, NINE ADDITIONAL WANTED FOR FOOD POISONING INSURANCE FRAUD RING

ATLANTA – Special Agents with the Criminal Investigations Division of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office have recently taken out warrants on ten individuals who are believed to have played a role in a food poisoning insurance fraud ring. One suspect, Christian Walls, was arrested on March 17 by the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office and remains in the Gwinnett County Jail facing a \$22,400 bond.

What started as an investigation into two subjects expanded into what was discovered to be a ring of individuals allegedly using the guise of a food allergy compliant at local restaurants throughout six Georgia Counties to defraud medical insurance companies. The individuals would state they ordered chicken dishes, but found shrimp in their food, leading to an allergic reaction. They would then file false insurance claims and submit false medical records and medical billing statements to obtain money from insurance companies for medical treatment that was not sought. The medical records and medical billing statements were allegedly falsified and altered to reflect the name of the suspects, their date of birth, and multiple different medical facilities.

"This elaborate and carefully orchestrated ring stole nearly \$25,000 from Georgia insurance companies. These types of schemes have proven to lead to higher insurance rates for every family in our state," said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. "If you have any information on the whereabouts of these individuals, please call our Criminal Investigations Division at 404-463-6363."

The following warrants were obtained on March 9, 2020:

Spalding County

Kevion Young (27) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery

Clayton County

David Lilly (27) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery

Cobb County

Alicia Nelson (27) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery Demond Hewlett (23) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery Ricardo Hamlin (25) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery Mikayla Flonnoy (28) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery

Gwinnett County

Bradley Bland (27) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery Christian Walls (28) - 1 count Insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery (*In Custody*)

The follow warrants were obtained on March 11, 2020:

Clarke County

Jillian Anderson (27) - 1 count Insurance Fraud

Banks County

Terrance Bradshaw (28) - 1 count insurance Fraud; 1 count Forgery

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 Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office at 800-656-2298. Callers can choose to remain anonymous.