



NEWS RELEASE

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GWINNETT COUNTY AGENT ARRESTED FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

Atlanta – Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens announced today that an investigation by his Fraud Division has resulted in a Gwinnett County insurance agent being arrested for fraud.

Julia Cruz, 37, of Norcross, has been charged with two counts of insurance fraud and one count of theft by conversion. She was arrested this morning and transported to the Gwinnett County Jail.

Fraud investigators determined that Cruz, who owns and operates Platinum Agency & Services in Lilburn, Georgia, allegedly pocketed a cash payment of \$3,695.00 from her client for workers' compensation and liability insurance and issued him a bogus certificate as proof of coverage.

"Cruz violated her client's trust when she took his premium and didn't bind the coverage" said Commissioner Hudgens. "My office will continue to investigate and arrest dishonest agents."

Hudgens urges anyone who has purchased insurance from Cruz or Platinum Agency & Services to verify their coverage with the insurance company listed on the policy or contact his Consumer Services Division for assistance at **800-656-2298**.

Insurance fraud is a felony with a penalty of two to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.