

**INSURANCE FRAUD**

# What We Do

## Legal Division

The North Dakota Insurance Department's Legal Division is composed of highly-qualified and experienced attorneys, investigators and a legal assistant dedicated to investigating and enforcing laws relating to the insurance business applicable to consumers, insurance companies and producers alike. These talented individuals do so by conducting examinations, drafting legislation and administrative rules, providing

legal counsel to Department staff and by bringing justice to those who commit insurance fraud and related criminal offenses.

One of the larger projects the Division has taken on recently is the newly created Fraud Prosecution program. This program involves Division attorneys working with county state's attorney's to prosecute insurance fraud and related offenses around the state.

Insurance fraud costs consumers in the United States \$80-120 billion each year, equaling about \$950 per family annually. It is the second most profitable crime in the United States behind only illegal drug sales. Examples of insurance fraud include but are not limited to deliberate attempts to stage an accident faking an injury, intentionally burning one's property and then claiming the fire was an accident, exaggerating a legitimate claim, knowingly omitting or providing false information on an insurance policy application, or knowingly and with intent to defraud providing false or misleading information to an insurance company in support of a claim for payment of a benefit.

Insurance fraud is a complicated and specialized area of law. Many county state's attorneys are already burdened with heavy caseloads that may not allow them adequate resources to prosecute cases referred to them. The Fraud Prosecution program seeks to alleviate some of that burden and ensure appropriate resources are in place by partnering with county state's attorneys to prosecute these offenses across North Dakota.

The Department recently hired an attorney with advanced prosecutorial experience to collaborate with Burleigh, Morton and Ward counties on cases of insurance fraud. With the addition of this attorney, the Division looks forward to further expanding this program to additional counties throughout the state.



**North Dakota  
INSURANCE  
DEPARTMENT**

**PROTECTING THE PUBLIC GOOD**

JON GODFREAD, COMMISSIONER