



Kansas Insurance Department

Ken Selzer, CPA, Commissioner of Insurance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Consumer alert:

Insurance Department suspends license for Smith Center-based insurance agent

Topeka, KS — The Kansas Insurance Department (KID) has issued an emergency license suspension for a Smith Center, KS, insurance agent following an investigation of a complaint from an insurance company.

Ken Selzer, CPA, Kansas Commissioner of Insurance, has suspended the license of Trisha A. Wiehl after a fact-finding investigation by the insurance department concerning small claims funds misuse. The suspension will remain in place until resolution of a previously issued department summary order.

Both orders alleged that 36 checks from Buckeye Insurance Company, an Ohio-based insurance carrier, had been issued to SCI Body Shop in Kensington, KS, totaling \$108,117.10. All but one of these checks were issued by Wiehl in the last quarter of 2017.

Investigators determined that SCI Body Shop does not exist. They also contacted alleged claimants who stated they had not made any claim regarding the funds paid out. Wiehl admitted to KID investigators that she signed and endorsed the checks with the initials “SCI.”

The insurance department advises consumers that if they have any questions regarding their insurance policies and any action taken on their part, they should contact their insurance carriers directly.

Earlier this week, the attorney general’s office filed criminal charges against Wiehl. A first appearance has been set for September 4 at 10 a.m. in Smith County District Court. Criminal charges are merely accusations. Individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The following are online links to the KID Emergency and Summary orders:

<https://www.ksinsurance.org/department/LegalIssues/orders/2018/Wiehl-redacted-EO.pdf>

<https://www.ksinsurance.org/department/LegalIssues/orders/2018/Wiehl-redacted-SO.pdf>

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The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies, and licenses agents selling insurance products in the state. More about the department is online at www.ksinsurance.org or at www.facebook.com/kansasinsurancedepartment.