

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Greenville County Man Pleads Guilty to Insurance Fraud

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Jerry G. Brown, 42, of 50 Forrestville Road in Travelers Rest, pleaded guilty on January 10, 2006, to one (1) count of Presenting a False Claim for Payment (in excess of \$1,000), a felony punishable to five (5) years imprisonment and/or a fine in the discretion of the court.

On May 23, 2002, Brown presented a claim for damages to State Farm Insurance Company alleging property damage to his 1991 Ford pick-up truck. Brown claimed that his vehicle was damaged on May 21, 2002, when he left it in a Wal-Mart parking lot. State Farm paid the claim and rental expenses.

Further investigation revealed that Brown had a previous claim from May 2, 2002, and the damage from that claim matched the damage he was claiming from the May 21, 2002 incident. Brown claimed the same damages twice to the same vehicle, and was paid both times.

Judge Cordell Maddox, Jr., presiding over the General Sessions Court of Anderson County, sentenced Brown to five (5) years imprisonment, suspended upon the service of three (3) years probation. Brown was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,899.72 to State Farm Insurance.

The case was investigated by State Farm Insurance, the State Law Enforcement Division, and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.