



News Release

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Georgia Woman Pleads Guilty in Hartsville, S.C. Arson and Insurance Fraud Case *Sentenced to five years incarceration*

(COLUMBIA, SC) Betty McRaven of Riverdale, Georgia (D.O.B. 07/08/1954) pled guilty on February 10, 2014 in Dillon County General Sessions Court to Presenting False Claims for Payment (2 counts); Criminal Conspiracy; Arson, 3rd degree (0-15 years); and Burning Personal Property to Defraud an Insurer. Circuit Court Judge William Henry Seals, Jr. sentenced her to five (5) years incarceration on each charge, to run concurrent.

On November 23, 2009, the Darlington County Sheriff's Office responded to a suspicious fire at a mobile home in Hartsville, South Carolina owned by Timothy Coe. Investigation discovered Betty McRaven impersonated an individual named Cynthia Lighty and initiated two insurance policies on the structure, claiming she was renting the home from Coe. One policy with Homesite Insurance Company was for \$65,000; the other with Assurant Property and Casualty was for \$35,000. McRaven used a stolen credit card number to pay for both policies. Once the policies were in place, McRaven and an individual named Calvin Jackson set the mobile home on fire. McRaven, Jackson, and Lighty then proceeded with the insurance claims.

Investigators became suspicious when the two insurance companies discovered Lighty had no belongings in the mobile home. Lighty withdrew the claims when she was pressed about discrepancies.

Previously, Betty McRaven pled guilty to a similar scheme in Darlington County. She and two others conspired to set her house on fire in November 2007. McRaven was paid over \$99,000 in that case. She was sentenced on January 24, 2012 to fifteen (15) years, suspended to two (2) days service and five (5) years' probation, plus restitution.

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