

PRESS RELEASE

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Auto Body Business Owner Convicted of Insurance Fraud

On June 13, 2014, the Maricopa County Superior Court found Michael Griesa, owner of 1st Class Collision, LLC, guilty of Forgery, a Class 4 Felony, and Insurance Fraud, a Class 6 Felony. The Court sentenced Griesa to 1 year of probation, fined him \$813.00 in probationary and court costs and ordered him to pay \$1,910.00 in restitution.

Former employees of 1st Class Collision contacted Progressive Insurance complaining that, from about October, 2010 to April, 2012, Griesa was directing employees to cause additional damage to vehicles coming into the shop so he could file higher claims with insurers. As a result, Progressive Insurance made a fraud referral with the Arizona Department of Insurance Fraud Unit who conducted an undercover investigation at the business. One of the former employees was also able to produce before and after photographs of vehicles showing damage done to the vehicles in 1st Class Collision's possession. The Arizona Attorney General's Office prosecuted the case.

Consumers who suspect insurance fraud are encouraged to call the Fraud Unit of the Arizona Department of Insurance at (602) 364-2140.

About the Arizona Department of Insurance

The Arizona Department of Insurance, an agency of the State of Arizona, is responsible for the education and protection of insurance consumers and for oversight of the insurance industry in the state.