



# DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 June 2018

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## Welcome to CFO Jimmy Patronis' DIFSsource

CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Services brings to you the DIFSsource. Here you find the latest news, announcements and developments of our Division for the great State of Florida regarding acts of fraud, arson and the misuse of state funds. We are proud of our Divisions' efforts in safeguarding Florida business and resident's hard-earned assets. This newsletter serves to acknowledge the work that is done by our staff and to inform the public of our ongoing activities across the state.

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## DIFS Announces Our New Major of Operational Support Services

### NEWS OF INTEREST

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On June 8, Mike Wood joined the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services as Major over Operational Support Services.

Major Wood started his career in law enforcement in 1983 with the Leon County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff. Mike was later promoted to the rank of Sergeant and held a variety of supervisory positions ending with the rank of Major. Mike retired in 2014 and later returned in 2015 to the Leon County Sheriff's Office as the Undersheriff. On January 23, 2015, he was appointed to Sheriff of Leon County by Florida Governor Rick Scott until his term expired. In 2017, Mike was hired as the Chief of Investigations for the North District of the Division of Public Assistance Fraud.

We are proud to recognize Major Wood's dedicated efforts and look forward to his continued growth within our Division.

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## Announcements

**DIFS Announces the Start of Hurricane Season** DIFS is reminding everyone to prepare early and stock up on the required hurricane supplies. It's never too early to be prepared. Last year we saw 17 named storms form with 3 of those being major hurricanes striking US soil. Here are three financial and insurance preparation steps Floridians should complete as soon as possible: Snap a Photo, Prepare Your Home and Keep Info Handy.

**DIFS Would Like to Congratulate Det. Robert Jackson** On receiving FIFEC's Detective of the Year Award for his work investigating into Dr. Steven Perelmuter for submitting fraudulent claims and billing insurance companies for services never rendered to patients between 2008 to 2015.



**DIFS Would Like to Announce Our New Major, Mike Wood** On June 8, 2018, Mike Wood joined the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services as Major over DIFS' Operational Support Services.

**DIFS Attended the Orange County 2018 Hurricane Expo** On Saturday June 9, 2018, Representatives from the Bureau of Insurance Fraud answered questions, walked attendees through the claim process and provided information to hundreds of attendees and vendors about the different services that the Bureau provides. Overall, it was a very informative event assisting in preparation for the 2018 Hurricane Season.

**DIFS Would Like to Congratulate Det. Shane Gaghan** On receiving the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (FFMIA) Fire Investigator of the Year award. Det. Gaghan has maintained a full caseload with the Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations (BFAEI) Tampa Field Office. Det. Gaghan has worked approximately 39 fires to date with 10 classified as incendiary fires, 6 cases cleared by arrest resulting in a 60% clearance by arrest rate, which more than triples the national average.

[Read all DIFS Announcements](#)

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## DIFS in the News

**Polk Contractor Accused of Preying on Families After Tropical Weather**  
featured on: [The Ledger](#)



**Jacksonville Daycare Fire**  
featured on: [First Coast News](#)

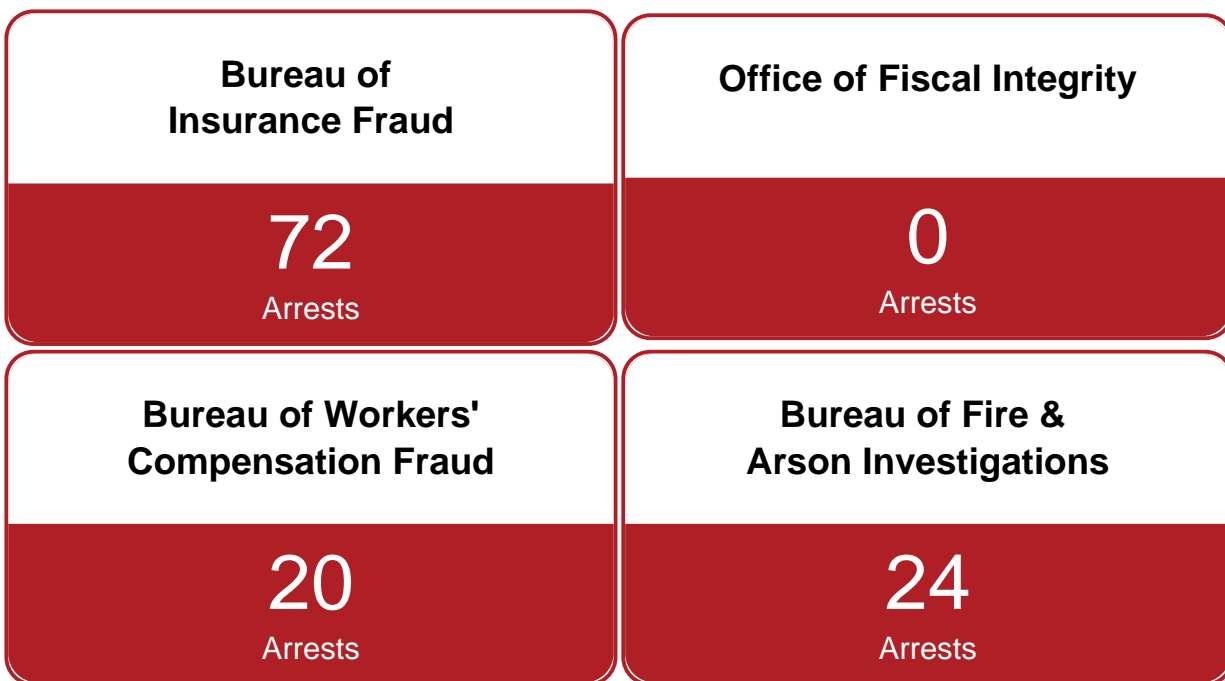
[Read all of the DIFS Press Releases](#)

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## June Arrest Stats



**DIFS' law enforcement Bureaus have arrested the following for criminal behaviors**



\*Numbers reflect arrest counts provided at time of publish.

[View Full Arrest Report](#)

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading and subscribing to the DIFSource. This is the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services' monthly newsletter highlighting some of our goings-on around the great state of Florida. If you have any comments, please send us an email by clicking the email icon below. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Leighton Tomkins  
"Lance"

Public Information Officer, DIFS

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### REWARD OFFERED:

Up to **\$25,000** for information leading to the conviction of persons committing complex and organized insurance crimes.



## INSURANCE FRAUD MOST WANTED

Click **HERE** to see the CFO's Most Wanted list.