



# DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 March 2019

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## Welcome to CFO Jimmy Patronis' DIFSsource

CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Service brings to you the DIFSsource. Here you will find the latest news, announcements and developments of the Division for the great State of Florida regarding acts of fraud, arson and the misuses of state funds. We are proud of the 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.

### NEWS OF INTEREST

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## DIFS' Bureau of Insurance Fraud Arrests 12 People Involved in a \$42.7 Million Insurance Fraud Ring



DIFS fraud detectives revealed that 14 individuals submitted 23,708 claims to insurance companies, containing over 20 different physicians' stolen identities for fraudulent services from 2015 to 2018. Claims were listed as originating from 15 “phantom clinics” with addresses in the Fort Myers, Tampa, Lake Worth, Boca Raton and Miami. These fake clinics had physical addresses to function solely as drop boxes for insurance payments. In total, \$42,742,852 in fraudulent medical claims were submitted to insurance companies for payment.

At a press conference in Ft. Myers on February 6th, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jimmy Patronis announced the arrest of 10 individuals that were involved in the insurance fraud ring. Two of the outstanding participants were later found and obtained with one turning himself in to law enforcement officials. Two participants are still outstanding including Jorge Valido, a former Miami doctor and primary figure in the fraud scheme, along with Minerva Valido.

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[State Fire Marshal](#)

[Workers' Compensation](#)

[Insurance Agent and Agency Services](#)

[DIFS Organizational Chart](#)

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## Announcements



**DIFS Would Like to Congratulate:**

**Lieutenant Stacy McIntyre** on being nominated for the Attorney General's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Lt. McIntyre was recognized on February 20, 2019 for his actions and dedication to the citizens of Florida.

**Lieutenant Kevin Lashells** on promotion to Lieutenant of the Bureau of Insurance Fraud, West Palm Beach Office. Lt. Lashells joined the Division in 2013 as a detective in the Miami Office, Auto Fraud Squad.

[Read all DIFS Announcements](#)

## DIFS In The News

**Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary fire**  
featured on: [Orlando Sentinel](#)

**Fourteen arrested in major fraud bust**  
featured on: [WGCU](#) / [WCTV](#) / [Fox4](#) / [WINK](#)

**Orange City woman arrested again for scamming hurricane victims**  
featured on: [Daytona Beach News Journal](#)

**Orange County deputy accused of insurance fraud in crash involving deer**  
featured on: [Click Orlando](#)

**Florida mayor faces insurance fraud investigation**  
featured on: [Insurance Business](#)

**Deputies release videos of suspect accused in seven Lake County arson cases**  
featured on: [WFTV](#)



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

## February Arrest Stats



**DIFS' Law Enforcement Bureaus have arrested the following for criminal behavior.**



**Bureau of  
Insurance Fraud**

**38**

Arrests

**Office of Fiscal Integrity**

**0**

Arrests

**Bureau of Workers'  
Compensation Fraud**

**44**

Arrests

**Bureau of Fire &  
Arson Investigations**

**27**

Arrests

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

[Full Arrest List](#)



**INSURANCE FRAUD  
MOST WANTED**

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

**INSURANCE HELPLINE 1-800-378-0445**

If you suspect an insurance scheme, you can report it safely, easily and anonymously in most cases. Help lower the cost we **ALL** pay for fraud.

**REWARD OFFERED:**

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



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 hearing from you and receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Leighton "Lance" Tomkins

DIFS, Public Information Officer

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