VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM

STAMP OUT FRAUD

1-877-62FRAUD
www.stampoutfraud.com

CONTACT:
Pamela Jewell
Pamela.Jewell@vsp.virginia.gov
804-674-2777
804-840-1585 (cell)

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Virginia Woman's Padded Insurance Claim Loses Its Fluff

RICHMOND, VA. -- A Virginia woman's decision to inflate, or pad, as it's known in the insurance industry, a burglary claim resulted in her receiving a felony conviction for insurance fraud.

Kedra Lynette Speller, of Portsmouth, Va., made a claim to Traveler's Insurance in which she alleged a flat screen television and a laptop computer were stolen from her residence. The Virginia State Police investigation revealed she never owned these items. Speller had instead borrowed receipts from her sister and included them in her itemized listing of her burglary claim. Insurance Fraud Special Agent Russell L. Eley III executed a search warrant in Chesapeake that revealed the items were still in her sister's house.

"While hard economic conditions may tempt individuals to pad their claims for short term gain," Eley warned, "felony convictions carry long term consequences." On Oct. 18, Speller was sentenced in Portsmouth Circuit Court to two years in the state penitentiary, all suspended upon her successful completion of one year of supervised probation.

If you have knowledge of a fraudulent insurance scheme or suspect you may have been the victim of insurance fraud, report the activity to the Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program on the insurance fraud hotline at 1-877-62FRAUD (1-877-623-7283) or visit www.StampOutFraud.com. You can also find us on Facebook and YouTube. Tipsters will remain anonymous and may also be eligible to receive a reward of up to $25,000.

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