

## WHAT IS BODILY INJURY FRAUD AND WHO REALLY GETS HURT?



South Carolina Attorney General's Office  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
South Carolina Insurance News Service  
South Carolina Department of Insurance  
South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators

**To:** South Carolina Middle and High School Principals

**From:** South Carolina Attorney General's Office  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
South Carolina Insurance News Service  
South Carolina Department of Insurance  
South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators

**Subject:** Stop Insurance Fraud Essay Competition for Middle School Students (7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) and High School Students (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grades)

**Date:** September 7, 2006

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South Carolina has a number of groups concerned about bodily injury fraud and its effect on the citizens and businesses of our state. Auto, home, business, and health insurance scams cost Americans over \$120 billion each year, and South Carolinians pay their share of the bill for these illegal activities.

The agencies and associations listed above maintain a strong stand against insurance fraud, and are committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting these cases. The message must be clear: **Stealing from an insurance company is stealing from South Carolina citizens. Insurance fraud is a crime.** If insurance fraud were a business, it would be a top Fortune 500 company.

To assist students in understanding how fraud directly affects the amount citizens pay in insurance premiums and goods and services, an essay competition is being held for middle school (7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and high school (9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades) students. This year's theme is **“What Is Bodily Injury Fraud And Who Really Gets Hurt?”** The paper should highlight why consumers should be concerned about bodily injury fraud and how it impacts the consumer.

Additionally, students will become familiar with South Carolina's mandatory reporting act which states **“...any person, insurer or authorized agency having reason to believe that another has made a false statement or misrepresentation or has knowledge of a suspected false statement or misrepresentation shall, for purpose of reporting and investigation, notify South Carolina's Attorney General's Insurance Fraud Hotline at 1-888-95-FRAUD (toll free in SC).”**

(Over)

Listed below are seven common types of insurance fraud:

- **Misrepresentation of the number of miles you drive on an auto insurance application.**
- **Failure to report an accurate medical history when applying for health insurance.**
- **Fake or exaggerated injury claims to avoid work and draw workers' compensation pay outs.**
- **Falsification or overstatement of injuries in an auto accident to obtain a large settlement or damages award.**
- **Staged auto accidents that result in claims for non-existent or exaggerated injuries.**
- **Fabrications of relationships to obtain life insurance benefits.**
- **Exaggerations of the amount and value of items stolen from a home, business or automobile.**

The goal of the essay competition is to:

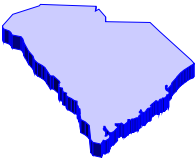
- (1) Provide students with sufficient information to enable them to understand the seriousness of bodily injury fraud; and**
- (2) To improve their writing skills.**

Guidelines for the competition are enclosed. For more information, please contact Sherry Gore King, Director of Educational Services at the Department of Consumer Affairs at **803.734.4195** or **1.800.922.1594** (toll free in SC) or [king@dca.state.sc.us](mailto:king@dca.state.sc.us).

**ESSAY COMPETITION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006**

**We would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their sponsorship of the 2006 Stop Insurance Fraud Essay Contest:**

**Allstate Insurance Companies  
GEICO Insurance Companies  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Companies  
South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators  
State Farm Insurance Companies  
Utica National Insurance Group**



# WHAT IS BODILY INJURY FRAUD AND WHO REALLY GETS HURT?



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## Stop Insurance Fraud Essay Competition

**Theme:** "What is Bodily Injury Fraud and Who Really Gets Hurt?"

**Level:** Open to all South Carolina middle school (7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) students

**Time:** (1) Compositions **must be postmarked or delivered to the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs by Friday, October 13, 2006.**

(2) Judging will be completed by the end of October.

**Awards:** The top essayists in each category will receive a monetary award. Additionally, the top three essayists in each category will receive a savings bond in the following amounts:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** \$500      **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** \$250      **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** \$150

**Resources:** Websites to help with resources about insurance fraud are:  
(1) [www.scinsnews.com](http://www.scinsnews.com)  
(2) [www.insurancefraud.org](http://www.insurancefraud.org)  
(3) [www.sc-ifi.org](http://www.sc-ifi.org)  
(4) [www.nicb.org](http://www.nicb.org)  
(5) [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org)  
(6) [www.doi.sc.gov](http://www.doi.sc.gov)

<b>Criteria:</b>		
	All essays will be judged on:	Maximum points
I.	Expression & Creativity	40
	a. Title/general approach	
	b. Imaginative ideas	
	c. Interesting word choices	
II.	Mechanics	30
	a. Spelling	
	b. Handwriting	
	c. Language use	
	d. Capitalization	
	e. Sentence structure	
	f. Punctuation	
III.	Writing process	30
	a. Ideas presented in logical order	
	b. Consistent writing style	
	c. Fully explained ideas	
	d. Ideas adhere to theme	

(over)

# Stop Insurance Fraud Essay Competition

## Writing Procedures:

- (1) Students must submit essays to their guidance counselor or principal.
- (2) Essays should be 500-700 words in length.
- (3) Essays must be handwritten **NOT TYPED**.
- (4) Essays will be disqualified if all criteria are not met.

## Judging:

- (1) A panel of a minimum of three judges will be named to judge the essays.
- (2) Awards will be presented during a special ceremony on November 8, 2006 at the City of Charleston Police Department. Parents, teachers, and principals of the winners will be invited to attend. Lunch will be provided at the Insurance Fraud Awareness Expo.
- (3) A signed Statement of Assurance must accompany each essay. (The enclosed Statement of Assurance may be duplicated if additional copies are needed.)

## \*All essays should be mailed to:

Stop Insurance Fraud Essay Competition  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
Post Office Box 5757  
Columbia, SC 29250-5757

## \*\*Or delivered to:

3600 Forest Drive  
Suite 300  
Columbia, SC 29204

**If you have questions, contact Sherry Gore King Director of Educational Services, at 803.734.4195 or at 1.800.922.1594 (toll free in SC) or [king@dca.state.sc.us](mailto:king@dca.state.sc.us)**

**\* Entries mailed to the department must be postmarked by Friday, October 13, 2006.**

**\*\* Entries delivered to the Department must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2006.**

**E-MAILED OR FAXED ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## Statement of Assurance

**I certify that this essay is the sole and individual effort of the student concerned.**

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School

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Date

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Parent's Name (please print)

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Parent's Signature

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Student's Name (please print)

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Student's Signature