

# PRESS RELEASE

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### **Identity Theft Suspect Commits Insurance Fraud, Which Leads to His Arrest and 60-Year Conviction.**

**PHOENIX** – A Tucson man was sentenced on July 6, 2015, to 60 years in prison as the result of an insurance fraud investigation by the Arizona Department of Insurance.

On August 7, 2013, Gabriel Christopher Morris was arrested in Tucson, AZ, by agents of the Fraud Unit and the Tucson Police Department. Morris allegedly took the identity of a Tucson resident and opened up credit card accounts and financed \$23,416.92 for a 2008 Dodge Durango using the victim's identity. Morris also obtained an insurance policy through GEICO Insurance and was in the process of making a second accident claim on the same vehicle when it was discovered he was using the victim's stolen identity.

GEICO contacted the Arizona Department of Insurance Investigations Division that with the help of Tucson Police Department arrested Morris when he showed up at GEICO to pick up a claim check. Morris was found in possession of a fraudulent Arizona driver's license belonging to the victim that had Morris's photo on it. Property was recovered during the vehicle search that was believed to be reported stolen from three Tucson residences and two vehicle burglaries in San Diego, California. Numerous other victims' identifications were found along with equipment Morris had used to make fraudulent Arizona driver's licenses.

On April 8, 2015, Morris went on trial in Pima County Superior Court and was convicted on five counts of forgery and one count of theft. Morris was sentenced by Pima County

Superior Court Judge Danelle Liwski to 12 years in prison on each count on the forgeries and 20 years on the theft charge to run concurrent. In addition, Morris was sentenced to 40 years in prison on other charges brought by Tucson PD - bringing his total sentence for all charges to 60 years. At sentencing, Judge Liwski advised Morris he would never be in a position to exploit another person again. The case was prosecuted by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

### **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.