



Office of the Director
Arizona Department of Insurance
100 N. 15th Ave., Suite 102, Phoenix, Arizona 85018-7269
Phone: (602) 364-3100 | Web: <https://insurance.az.gov>

Douglas A. Ducey, Governor
Keith Schraad, Interim Director

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: **Stephen Briggs**
sbriggs@azinsurance.gov
(602) 364-3761

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Medical Professional Arrested on over \$190,000 in Fraudulent Claims

Phoenix – On the morning of July 30, 2018, the Arizona Department of Insurance (DOI) Fraud Unit arrested Mrs. Laura Lynn Bell, PMHNP-BC, who allegedly filed over \$190,000 in fraudulent medical claims with insurance companies.

In January 2018, a medical professional contacted the DOI, reporting she believed that her identity had been stolen and that someone was using her nursing credentials to illegally treat patients. This week, a grand jury indicted Bell. She is now facing 12 felony charges, including fraudulent schemes and artifices, theft, money laundering in the second degree, and forgery.

Mrs. Bell allegedly continued to bill insurance companies for treating physiological conditions of individuals she had had contact with. The DOI identified over 80 victims of identity theft in this case, and found that Mrs. Bell may have treated three Veterans Affairs patients without a license.

The DOI Fraud Unit was assisted in this investigation by agents from the Arizona Office of the Attorney General, the Chandler Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspector Services and the Department of Veteran Affairs Office of Inspector General.

The Arizona Department of Insurance Fraud Unit is a State law enforcement agency dedicated to investigating reported violations of the Arizona insurance laws and regulations. A criminal charge is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.