

Los Angeles County Probation Officer arrested for disability fraud

News: 2014 Press Release

For Release: October 23, 2014 Media Calls Only: 916-492-3566

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LOS ANGELES, Calif. - Cynthia Wesley, 46, of Claremont, was arrested by Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputies on two felony counts of insurance fraud after allegedly altering workers' compensation documents and illegally collecting \$1,036 in disability payments.

"Falsifying documents to receive unearned disability payments is a serious offense," said Commissioner Dave Jones. "The fact that Wesley was a trusted member of law enforcement adds insult to injury in this case. We will investigate and bring to justice anyone that commits insurance fraud, regardless of where they are employed."

An investigation by the California Department of Insurance Fraud Division revealed Wesley, a Los Angeles probation officer, filed an altered workers' compensation return to work slip. Wesley submitted a workers' compensation form extending her total temporary disability period. The same altered documents were submitted to her supplemental disability insurance company.

Wesley was double dipping and received three months of fraudulent disability benefits from the Los Angeles County Probation Department and her supplemental disability insurance policy. Wesley's insurer was unaware of the over payment and the altered documentation until notified by department investigators.

If convicted Wesley faces a max sentence of five year, eight months in county jail.

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Media Notes:

Wesley's booking photo available on the CDI Flickr page. Violations include one count 1871.4(a)(1) and one count PC 550 (b)(1). Bail set at \$60,000 and the preliminary hearing is Thursday, November 20, 2014.

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The California Department of Insurance, established in 1868, is the largest consumer protection agency in California, regulating the \$123 billion insurance marketplace. In 2013 the California Department of Insurance received more than 170,000 calls from consumers and helped recover over \$63 million in claims and premiums. Please visit the Department of Insurance web site at www.insurance.ca.gov. Non-media inquiries should be directed to the Consumer Hotline at 800.927.HELP or 213.897.8921. Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD), please dial 800.482.4833.

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