



BRUCE RAUNER

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JAMES A. STEPHENS

Acting Director

NEWS

Illinois Department of Insurance

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CONTACT: Alissandra Calderon

312-814-6809

Alissandra.Calderon@illinois.gov

Union (IL) Couple Indicted for Workers' Compensation Fraud *Defendants Falsified Certificate of Insurance to Obtain Work*

WOODSTOCK – Illinois Department of Insurance Acting Director, James E. Stephens announced a recent workers' compensation fraud investigation has resulted in an indictment of a couple who reside in Union, Illinois. Brent Svoboda and Dawn Svoboda were arrested on April 27, 2015, after being indicted by a McHenry County Grand Jury on charges of forgery, wire fraud, and workers' compensation fraud – all felonies – for creating and delivering a fraudulent Certificate of Insurance.

"The growing number of indictments and convictions that have been obtained as a result of investigations continues to demonstrate the Department's commitment to making sure fraud is prosecuted," said Department Deputy Director, William Blumthal.

Dawn Svoboda, who handled the office aspects for her husband Brent Svoboda's business, Midwest Hardwood Flooring, is charged with creating and issuing a false Certificate of Insurance to a general contractor who sub-contracted work to Midwest Hardwood Flooring. Mr. Svoboda is also charged with delivering a copy of the false Certificate of Insurance to the same flooring contractor to show proof of workers' compensation insurance coverage. The contractor, who relied on the Certificate of Insurance provided by the Svobodas, could have been assessed thousands of dollars in additional premium by his own insurance company to cover any uninsured risk.

DOI referred the case to the McHenry State's Attorney's Office. The case is pending in McHenry County Circuit Court.

For more information about workers' compensation fraud, including matters that may involve fraud perpetrated by a claimant, employer, or insurance agent, please visit the DOI website at <http://insurance.illinois.gov/WCFU/default.asp>. To report a claimant, employer, healthcare provider, attorney, insurance agent or company, contact the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit at 877-WCF-UNIT (877-923-8648) or DOI.WorkCompFraud@illinois.gov.

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