

# PRESS RELEASE

**JANICE K. BREWER**  
GOVERNOR



**GERMAINE L. MARKS**  
DIRECTOR

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210, Phoenix, Arizona 85018-7256 · (602) 912-8456 · FAX: (602) 912-8452  
[www.azinsurance.gov](http://www.azinsurance.gov)

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**Media Contact:** Darren Ellingson  
Deputy Director  
(602) 364-3471

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### **Auto Body Shop Owner Charged in Staged Accidents and Identity Theft Cases**

**PHOENIX** - On September 16, 2013, the Arizona State Grand Jury charged Hugo Alejandro Mejia-Regalado with several felonies involving Fraud Schemes, Insurance Fraud, Forgeries, Theft and Aggravated Identity Theft. The case involved separate investigations conducted by State Farm Insurance and the Arizona Department of Insurance Investigations Division.

Agents with the Arizona Department of Insurance, assisted by the Phoenix Police Department and agents with the National Insurance Crime Bureau, executed search warrants on X Auto Body Shop at 1540 West Broadway Rd Phoenix, AZ, and Hugo Alejandro Mejia-Regalado's residence in northwest Phoenix. The investigation involved Insurance Auto Policies being taken out on different vehicles in fraudulent names with the use of fake Mexico driver's licenses. Within a couple weeks of the policies being taken out the vehicles were involved in hit and run accidents which are believed to be staged.

The allegations are that Hugo Alejandro Mejia-Regalado had taken out at least three policies using Mexico driver's licenses under false names. These false names were also used to obtain Arizona motor vehicle titles just prior to the policies being taken out. Numerous other claims are still under investigation. Hugo Alejandro Mejia-Regalado was booked into the Maricopa County Jail where he is being held on these charges plus a

Federal Immigration hold. The case is being prosecuted by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Consumers who suspect insurance fraud are encouraged to call the Fraud Unit of the Arizona Department of Insurance at (602) 364-2140.

**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.