

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## BLASDELL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Joseph Krieger, 64, of Blasdell, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, to mail fraud. The charge carries a maximum penalty of a term of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who is handling the case, stated that between 2003 and 2010, the defendant operated the Genesee Agency. During that time, Krieger falsified 73 applications for insurance to the Auto One Insurance Company. On the applications, the defendant listed his own business address of 1560 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, N.Y., 14206 as the policyholder's address rather than the true out of state addresses of the actual policyholders. Krieger also falsely classified the vehicles as operating within a 50 mile radius of his business address when, in truth, the defendant knew that the vehicles were being driven outside of New York State. These false statements caused Auto One Insurance Company to charge lower premiums on each of the 73 automobile insurance policies than what should have been charged resulting in a total loss to Auto One of \$12,628.89.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Robert Bethel, Inspector in Charge, along with agents of the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 25, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Arcara.

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