Anyone who suspects insurance fraud should report it by calling the DFS Fraud Hotline at 1-800-378-0445 or visit our Web site at www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/Fraud. You could even be eligible for a reward of up to \$25,000.

TALLAHASSEE

200 E. Gaines St.

PENSACOLA 610 Burgess Rd.

32399-0324 32504

850-413-3115 850-453-7802 Fax: 850-474-5339

Fax: 850-413-3996

FORT MYERS FT. LAUDERDALE

Suite 5 Suite 135

4700 Terminal Dr. 1400 W. Commercial Blvd.

33907 33309

239-278-7527 954-958-4502 Fax: 239-338-2326 Fax: 954-202-3213

JACKSONVILLE

Suite 149, Building B Suite 100

921 N Davis St. 9800 Fourth St. North 32209 St. Lucie Building

904-798-5802 33702

Fax: 904-359-2677 727-563-1142

Fax: 747-217-7605

ST. PETERSBURG

MIAMI

Suite N-321 **TAMPA** 401 N.W. 2nd Ave. Suite 100

33128 8600 Hidden River Pky.

305-536-0302 33637

Fax: 305-377-5305 813-972-8602

Fax: 813-558-5145

ORLANDO

407-835-4402

Suite S-823 **WEST PALM BEACH**

Hurston Building Suite 310

3111 S. Dixie Hwy. 400 W. Robinson St.

32801 33405

561-837-5601

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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0323



COMPENSATION FRAUD

Workers' compensation insurance is a significant expense for Florida businesses, and fraud pushes the price even higher. Understanding the consequenses of workers' compensation fraud and knowing how to report it can help reduce the cost of doing business.

The two most common schemes are claimant fraud and premium fraud.

claimant fraud

CLAIMANT FRAUD

In claimant fraud, an employee may receive wage replacement benefits under false pretenses. The dishonest claimant may lie about the injury occurring on the job, or the injury itself. In addition, the dishonest worker may overstate the extent and seriousness of the injury or receive money from other sources while lying to the insurance company about such income. Unscrupulous medical practitioners can be paid for excessive or even nonexistent treatments, and attorneys can also be involved in scams.

premium fraud

PREMIUM FRAUD

Premium fraud happens when employers try to cheat their insurance carriers by either not paying for workers' compensation coverage at all or by paying less than they should. The main scams involve under-reporting of payroll, misclassification of workers, using an improper loss experience factor, paying workers in cash while identifying them as subcontractors, or not having coverage at all.

Workers' compensation fraud is a drain on Florida's economy. It causes insurance companies to go insolvent, puts legitimate employers out of business and increases health care and insurance costs for all Floridians.

Workers' compensation fraud is a serious offense. A person can be charged with a first-degree felony, depending on the amount of money stolen.ictoria Ave.

