



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFRAUDING INSURANCE COMPANY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence man pleaded guilty today to defrauding his insurance company by falsely reporting that his car was stolen.

**Barry W. Jones**, 28, of Independence, Mo., waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to a federal information that charges him with mail fraud.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Jones** admitted that he intended to defraud State Farm Insurance Companies by reporting that his red 2000 Mustang GT was stolen. In reality, Graves said, **Jones** arranged for the car to be taken from his residence and disposed of. On February 4, 2002, **Jones** mailed an affidavit of vehicle theft to State Farm Insurance Companies.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Jones** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with the Career Criminal Unit of the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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