



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
TITLE: FORGERY; PERJURY; THEFT  
CASE ID: 2017-12-0292  
DATE: August 30, 2018

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Kelly Elliott, after an investigation by Special Agent Mark Mitchell, reports as follows:*

The Indiana General Assembly charged the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with addressing fraud, waste, abuse, and wrongdoing in the executive branch of state government. IC 4-2-7-2(b). The OIG also investigates criminal activity and ethics violations by state workers. IC 4-2-7-3. The OIG may recommend policies and carry out other activities designed to deter, detect, and eradicate fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in state government. IC 4-2-7-3(2).

On March 23, 2017, the OIG received a complaint from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) that alleged a former BMV employee, Stacy Cox, submitted false information to the BMV on personal certificate of title applications.

OIG Special Agent Mark Mitchell conducted an investigation into this matter. Through the course of his investigation, Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Cox and reviewed documentation received from BMV, including their internal investigative report on this matter.

According to BMV's investigative report of the allegations against Cox, BMV found that Cox submitted an application for a 1999 Chrysler Concord that listed a sale price that was different

from the price the seller of the vehicle stated they sold it. BMV also found that Cox submitted an application for a 2006 Ford Five Hundred that listed a sale price different from the price the seller of the vehicle stated they sold it for. At the conclusion of their investigation, BMV terminated Cox in or around March 2017.

Special Agent Mitchell reviewed the BMV certificate of title application for the 1999 Chrysler Concord. The application indicated that Cox received the vehicle as a gift on January 2, 2015. The application listed the sale price for the vehicle as \$0 and a sales tax of \$0. Accompanying the application was the vehicle's BMV certificate of title, which listed the previous owner and seller of the vehicle (Seller 1). On the back of the title was a "Seller Information" box, which included Seller 1's name and signature, as well as the date of sale and sale price for the vehicle. Cox's information and signature were listed in the "Purchaser Information" box on the back of the title.

Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Seller 1. Special Agent Mitchell reviewed with Seller 1 a copy of the BMV certificate of title issued to her for the 1999 Chrysler Concord. Seller 1 stated that this was her vehicle, but she sold it to Cox for \$500 through a payment plan. Seller 1 confirmed it was her signature in the "Seller Information" box on the back of the title but stated she did not fill in the date of sale or place the term "gift" as the sales price. Seller 1 indicated that after signing the title, she gave it to Cox without this information filled in because she trusted Cox.

Special Agent Mitchell determined that if Cox had listed the sale price of the 1999 Chrysler Concord as \$500, she would have paid \$35 in sales taxes for the vehicle.

Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Cox. Cox stated she purchased the 1999 Chrysler Concord from Seller 1 and believed she paid \$300 or \$400 for the vehicle. Special Agent Mitchell asked Cox about the term "gift" being written as the sales price on the back of the vehicle's title. Cox explained that she listed the vehicle as a gift at the suggestion of Seller 1 because she did not

provide Seller 1 any funds when she received the vehicle, as she was paying Seller 1 for the vehicle in payments.

Special Agent Mitchell reviewed the BMV certificate of title application for the 2006 Ford Five Hundred. The application indicated that Cox purchased the vehicle on February 17, 2017 for \$300 and paid \$21 in sales tax. Accompanying the application was the vehicle's BMV certificate of title. The individual who sold the vehicle to Cox (Seller 2) was not listed on the title as the vehicle's previous owner. The title listed a different individual as the previous owner and seller of the vehicle (Owner). In the "Seller Information" box on the back of the title was the Owner's name and signature. The "Seller Information" box listed February 17, 2017 as the date of sale and \$300 as the sale price for the vehicle. In the "Purchaser Information" box on the back of the title was Cox's information and signature.

When Cox attempted to title and register the 2006 Ford Five Hundred in her name, BMV determined the vehicle was stolen. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) later confiscated the vehicle and returned it to the Owner.

Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Seller 2, owner of a used car dealership. He reviewed with Seller 2 the BMV certificate of title for the 2006 Ford Five Hundred. Seller 2 provided that he recognized the title as the one he received when he purchased the vehicle on February 17, 2017 for \$800. He stated that the signature listed in the "Seller Information" box on the back of the title was filled in when he purchased the vehicle. Seller 2 indicated that he did not fill in a date of sale or sale price on the back of the title when he later sold the vehicle to Cox for \$800.00. He stated that Cox gave him a \$300.00 down payment for the vehicle and was to pay him \$100.00 a week for the next five weeks. Seller 2 provided he returned to Cox her \$300 down payment after learning she lost possession of the vehicle.

Special Agent Mitchell determined that if Cox had listed the sale price of the 2006 Ford Five Hundred as \$800, she would have paid \$56 in sales taxes for the vehicle.

When Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Cox, she stated that she purchased the 2006 Ford Five Hundred from Seller 2 on February 17, 2018 for \$300.00. She explained that after she attempted to title and register the vehicle in her name, BMV determined the vehicle was stolen. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) verified the vehicle was stolen and confiscated it from Cox. Cox stated IMPD told her they did not have anything criminal to pursue or arrest her for regarding the vehicle's theft.

The OIG submitted the results of this investigation to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. On August 23, 2018, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office charged Cox with one count of Forgery as a Level 6 Felony, one count of Perjury as a Level 6 Felony, and one count of Theft as a Class A Misdemeanor. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

Dated: August 30, 2018

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Torres". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Lori Torres, Inspector General