



# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Lori Torres, Inspector General

OFFICE: INDIANA BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
TITLE: FORGERY; PERJURY; THEFT  
CASE ID: 2017-12-0293  
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, Richard Pringle, 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 Pringle and reviewed documentation received from BMV, including their internal investigation report on this matter.

According to BMV's investigative report of the allegations against Pringle, BMV found that Pringle submitted an application for a 1997 GMC Yukon in October 2016 that listed a sale price

that was different from the price the seller of the vehicle stated they sold it. At the conclusion of their investigation, BMV terminated Pringle's employment in or around March 2017.

Special Agent Mitchell reviewed the BMV certificate of title application for the 1997 GMC Yukon. The application indicated that Pringle purchased the vehicle on October 7, 2016. The application listed the sale price for the vehicle as \$100.00 and a sales tax of \$7.00. Accompanying the application was the vehicle's BMV certificate of title, which listed the previous owner and seller of the 1997 GMC Yukon (Seller). On the back of the title was a "Seller Information" box, which included the Seller's name and signature, as well as the date of sale and sale price of the vehicle. In the "Purchaser Information" box on the back of the title was Pringle's information and signature.

Special Agent Mitchell interviewed the Seller. Special Agent Mitchell reviewed with the Seller a copy of the BMV certificate of title issued to her for the 1997 GMC Yukon. The Seller indicated that this was her vehicle, but she sold it to Pringle for \$2,000.00 cash. She acknowledged that it was her signature in the "Seller Information" box on the back of the title. She stated she did not fill in the date of the sale or sale price for the vehicle now listed on the back of the title. The Seller indicated that she assumed Pringle would complete the title correctly because he worked at the BMV.

Special Agent Mitchell interviewed Pringle. Special Agent Mitchell reviewed with Pringle a copy of the BMV certificate of title issued to the Seller for the 1997 GMC Yukon. Pringle stated he recognized the title and acknowledged that it was his signature in the "Purchaser Information" box on the back of the title. Pringle stated that he filled in the date of sale and sale price of the vehicle in the "Seller Information" box on the back of the title. He confirmed that he placed October 7, 2016 as the date of sale and \$100.00 as the sale price for the vehicle in the "Seller Information" box.

Special Agent Mitchell then reviewed with Pringle a copy the BMV certificate of title application for the 1997 GMC Yukon, submitted to the BMV on October 11, 2016. Pringle stated he recognized the application and verified that he completed the document. He confirmed it was his signature on the application and that he listed the sale price for the vehicle as \$100.00. He stated he paid \$7.00 in taxes for the vehicle.

Pringle stated he understood the meaning of the statement on the application above his signature that states, "I swear and affirm that the information that I have entered on this form is correct. I understand that making a false statement on this form may constitute the crime of perjury." Pringle admitted that he submitted the BMV certificate of title application for the 1997 GMC Yukon knowing that the information contained in the application was incorrect. He stated he submitted the application while he was a BMV employee.

Special Agent Mitchell found that if Pringle had listed the sale price of the 1997 GMC Yukon as \$2,000, he would have paid \$140 in sales taxes for the vehicle.

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 Pringle 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:



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Lori Torres, Inspector General