

## NEWS: 2009 PRESS RELEASE

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Media Calls Only: 916-492-3566

### **Insurance Commissioner Poizner Warns Agents and Brokers Not to Give Personal Information to Scam Artists Posing as CDI Employees**

Insurance Commissioner Poizner today warned California licensed insurance agents and brokers to beware of a scam that has come to the Department's attention.

Individuals have been reportedly calling licensed insurance agencies and representing themselves as employees of the California Department of Insurance. These individuals, pretending to be CDI employees, have requested payment for a penalty fee due to not completing a fictitious form that they purport the department sent to the agencies. The same individuals also requested that the insurance agencies provide credit card information over the telephone to make the penalty payment and to avoid cancellation of their license.

Commissioner Poizner warns all agents and brokers that these individuals are not employees of the California Department of Insurance and are attempting to scam insurance agencies for financial gain. It is not the policy, practice or procedure for the California Department of Insurance to request credit card information over the telephone.

If you receive a telephone call requesting this information, do not provide the caller with any personal information including credit card or social security numbers. Contact your local law enforcement agency.

Enforcement officials are actively investigating this scam.

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Please visit the Department of Insurance Web site at [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov). Non media inquiries should be directed to the Consumer Hotline at 800.927.HELP. Callers from out of state, please dial 213.897.8921. Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD), please dial 800.482.4833.

If you are a member of the public wishing information, please visit our [Consumer Services](#).