

## ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Ventura Resident Pleads Guilty to Automobile Insurance Fraud

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that Ashley Lyons (DOB 05/08/86), of Ventura, pled guilty to felony automobile insurance fraud.

On August 20, 2019, Lyons was in a traffic accident in Ventura. Lyons did not have automobile insurance at the time of the accident since her policy lapsed in June 2019. Lyons contacted Esurance later the same day of the accident and obtained a new automobile insurance policy. A few hours thereafter, Lyons contacted Esurance again and reported she was in an accident and made a claim for coverage on her new policy.

Subsequent investigation by Esurance and the District Attorney's Office Auto Insurance Fraud Unit revealed Lyons's insurance claim for coverage was fraudulent since she was uninsured at the time of the accident.

Lyons is scheduled to be sentenced on September 13, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Felony automobile insurance fraud is punishable by up to five years in county jail and a fine up to \$50,000, or double the amount of fraud, whichever is greater.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.