



ERIK NASARENKO
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NEWS RELEASE



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Oxnard Woman Pleads Guilty to Auto Insurance Fraud

VENTURA, Calif. - On April 21, 2023, Leslie Vargas (DOB 08/03/01), of Oxnard, pled guilty to one count of insurance fraud.

Vargas obtained an automobile insurance policy with Nationwide Insurance Company on August 11, 2021. At the time she applied for the policy, Vargas falsely told the Nationwide representative her vehicle had no pre-existing damage. Once Vargas was covered by the insurance policy, a claim for damages was made and she falsely told Nationwide the damage happened only after the policy was initiated.

The case was investigated by the California Department of Insurance. They determined damages to Vargas' car were from on or before July 17, 2021, prior to the purchase of the insurance policy. Senior Deputy District Attorney Mike Frawley, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, prosecuted the case.

Vargas is scheduled to be sentenced on May 19, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. 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.

Case: 2022029388

Defendant Information:

Leslie Vargas (DOB 08/03/01)
Oxnard

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 550(b)(1) - Insurance Fraud