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Virginia Woman Sentenced for Cashing Fraudulent Insurance Check

Richmond, Va. -- A Norfolk, Va. woman's blessing turned into a curse when she was sentenced to the Virginia State Penitentiary for the crime of insurance fraud.

According to Virginia State Police (VSP) Special Agent Russell L. Eley III, Renita Yvette Wilson Meredith claimed the life insurance settlement check she received for her son who died in 2003 was "a blessing." However, that blessing turned out to be a forgery.

In May 2005, Meredith cashed a $4,250 check at a check cashing service in Norfolk, Va. The check was returned to the service after the bank determined the check was fraudulent. Investigation by the VSP uncovered numerous discrepancies with the check, including the incorrect name of the insurance company. Meredith also gave a bogus address to the check cashing service.

Meredith was found guilty of Obtaining Money by False Pretense, Forgery and Uttering. As a result she was sentenced to a total of nine years in prison. She will have to serve three years and seven months – the remainder of the sentence was suspended with five years supervised probation. Meredith was also ordered to make full restitution to the check cashing service in amount of $4,250.

If you have information about suspected insurance fraud or feel you have been a victim of insurance fraud, contact the Insurance Fraud Program of the Virginia State Police at www.StampOutFraud.com, or call the toll-free hotline, 1-877-62-FRAUD. Tipsters may be eligible for a reward of up to $25,000 for information that leads to an arrest, and they will remain anonymous. The Virginia State Police is committed to stamping out insurance fraud in the commonwealth.

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