



DIFS *ource*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8 August 2018

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Welcome to CFO Jimmy Patronis' DIFSsource

CFO Jimmy Patronis' Division of Investigative and Forensic Services brings to you the DIFSsource. Here you find the latest news, announcements and developments of our Division for the great State of Florida regarding acts of fraud, arson and the misuse of state funds. We are proud of our Divisions' efforts in safeguarding Florida business and resident's hard-earned assets. This newsletter serves to acknowledge the work that is done by our staff and to inform the public of our ongoing activities across the state.

DIFS Mourns the Passing of Major Michael "Mike" Byrne

NEWS OF INTEREST

[Announcements](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Arrests](#)

[Publications](#)

REPORT CRIME NOW

[Insurance Fraud](#)

[Suspected Arson](#)

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

[DIFS Home Page](#)

[Department of Financial Services](#)

[State Fire Marshal](#)



It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Major Michael "Mike" D. Byrne after a brave fight against cancer. He is survived by his wife Kathy and his three children.

Major Byrne joined our agency in November 2003 after having served in the U.S. Army and retiring from the New York State Police. We will mourn the loss of a selfless public servant and valued friend.

Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

[Read More](#)

[Workers' Compensation](#)

[Insurance Agent and Agency Services](#)

[DIFS Organizational Chart](#)

[STAY CONNECTED](#)



Announcements

DIFS Would Like to Recognize:

Captain David Lindsay for his service and wish him all the best in his retirement. Captain Lindsay has been with the Bureau of Insurance Fraud since 2007, serving in several roles during his tenure with the Bureau leading up to his current rank as Captain and Acting Major of District I.

DIFS Would Like to Congratulate:

Captain Eric Cruz on his recent promotion to Captain of the Bureau of Insurance Fraud South Region. Captain Cruz joined the Department of Financial Services as a member of the Miami Field Office PIP Squad



in 2012 and has over 30 years of law enforcement experience.

Captain Mike Smith on his recent promotion to Captain of the Bureau of Insurance Fraud North Region. Captain Smith joined the Department of Financial Services as a Major Case Squad Detective and eventually the Lead Detective in Tallahassee in 2009 and has over 44 years of law enforcement experience.

An Accreditation Team Visited The Division of Investigative and Forensic Services For Assessment:

The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) participated in the onsite inspection for achieving DIFS' goal of accreditation. The accreditation process requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations and administration making sure that they stand up to the high standards set forth for law enforcement agencies.

It is our pleasure to announce that DIFS has received favorable feedback from the eight-member team of assessors; therefore, during the October 2018 CFA Commissioner's meeting the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services will be recommended for initial accreditation.

To find out more information about accreditation, the standards and the process; please visit the CFA website <http://flaccreditation.org>

[Read all DIFS Announcements](#)

DIFS in the News

Denise Williams charged with insurance fraud in Mike Williams death
featured on: [Tallahassee Democrat](#) / [ABC27](#) / [WCTV](#)

Man sentenced to five years in prison for setting Coral Springs condo fire
featured on: [Miami Herald](#)/ [ABC10](#)/ [Sun Sentinel](#)

Vero Beach acupuncturist Jill Jaynes arrested on fraud, racketeering charges
featured on: [TCPalm](#) / [VeroNews](#)

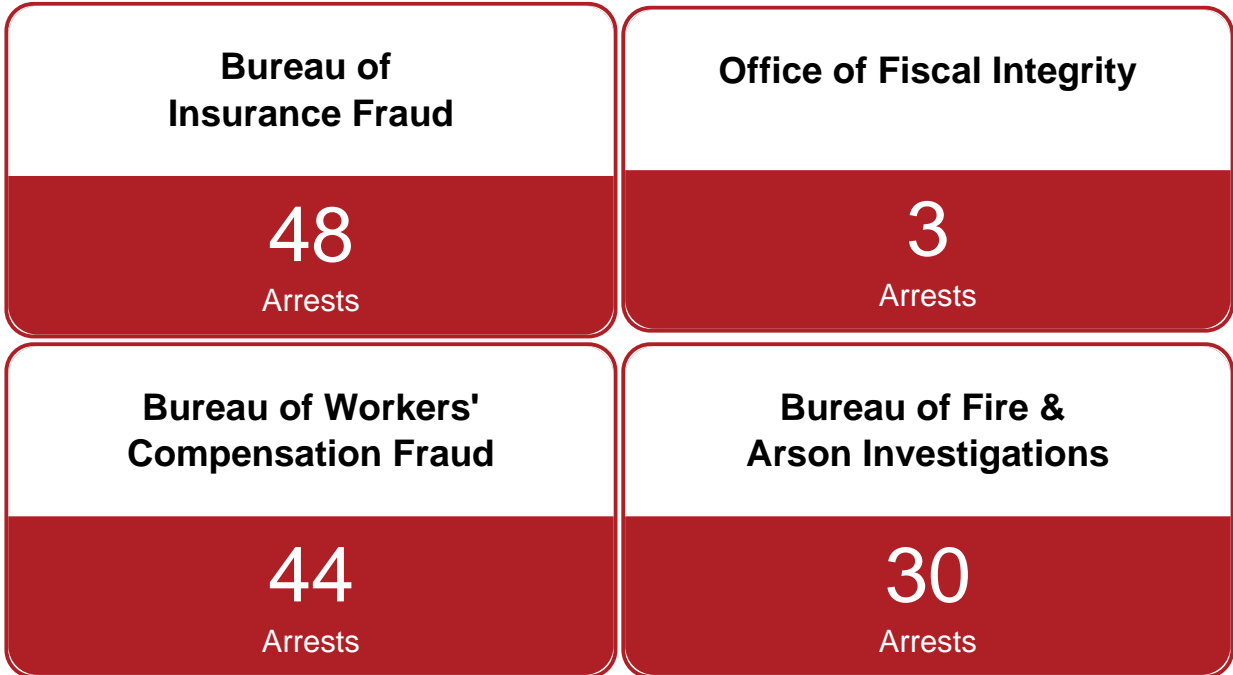


[Read all of the DIFS Press Releases](#)

August Arrest Stats



DIFS' law enforcement Bureaus have arrested the following for criminal behaviors



*Numbers reflect arrest counts provided at time of publish.

[View Full Arrest Report](#)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for reading and subscribing to the DIFSource. This is the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services' monthly newsletter highlighting some of our goings-on around the great state of Florida. If you have any comments, please send us an email by clicking the email icon below. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sincerely,

Leighton Tomkins
"Lance"

Public Information Officer, DIFS

INSURANCE HELPLINE 1-800-378-0445

If you suspect an insurance scheme, you can report it safely, easily and anonymously in most cases. Help lower the cost we **ALL** pay for fraud.

REWARD OFFERED:

Up to **\$25,000** for information leading to the conviction of persons committing complex and organized insurance crimes.



INSURANCE FRAUD MOST WANTED

Click **HERE** to see the CFO's Most Wanted list.