



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Michael K. Frawley  
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: (805) 662-1702  
Email: Mike.Frawley@Ventura.org

Approved: LOL  
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**Thousand Oaks Man Pleads Guilty to Automobile Insurance Fraud**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Darren Lee Hardy (DOB 11/08/72), of Thousand Oaks, pled guilty to felony automobile insurance fraud.

On approximately July 21, 2020, Hardy was in an automobile accident. On September 13, 2020, Hardy purchased an automobile insurance policy from Geico, but failed to disclose the accident that occurred in July. Hardy then reported to Geico that he was in an accident on October 26, 2020. Subsequent investigation by the Fraud Division of the California Department of Insurance revealed that the accident for which Hardy claimed damages actually occurred in July, prior to the date he purchased automobile insurance from Geico.

Hardy is scheduled to be sentenced on April 4, 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.