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Insurance Division asks doctors/dentists about agent

Salem, Oregon – The Oregon Insurance Division is asking dentists and oral surgeons to contact the division if they purchased business owners' insurance through Brenda L. MacLaren-Beattie, a Washington-based agent who allegedly sold phony policies to clients in both states.

According to Washington insurance investigators, MacLaren-Beattie and her Seattle-area company, the MacLaren Group, allegedly took premium money from dentists and oral surgeons who wanted business owners' policies but then failed to purchase the coverage. The policies would have protected buyers against everything from a client's fall to theft.

The 66-year-old told clients their insurance was through Mutual of Enumclaw or Berkshire Hathaway. Her appointment to represent Berkshire Hathaway terminated in 2003 and she was never appointed with Mutual of Enumclaw, according to Washington investigators. MacLaren-Beattie paid some claims with her personal funds.

The Oregon Insurance Division asks anyone who bought a similar policy from MacLaren-Beattie to call Investigator Stephanie Noren at 503-947-7233.

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The Insurance Division, part of the Department of Consumer & Business Services, helps ensure the financial soundness of insurers, the fair treatment of consumers, and the affordability and availability of insurance products. For more information, visit www.insurance.oregon.gov.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.