

20 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ODO TAMPERER DEALER.

Beau Michael Guidry of Baton Rouge, La., has been sentenced in connection with an odometer tampering scheme that defrauded victims in and around Louisiana, the Justice Department announced.

U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana James J. Brady sentenced Guidry to a term of 20 months in prison and a term of one year of supervised release during which he cannot be involved in the sale of motor vehicles. In addition, the court ordered Guidry to pay \$72,805.51 in restitution to the victims of his crimes.

Guidry purchased high-mileage motor vehicles via eBay and wholesale automobile auctions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The vehicles' odometers were then rolled back as much as 147,000 miles and resold via Guidry's used vehicle company, Affordable Imports in Denham Springs, La., or through eBay to unsuspecting purchasers. Guidry exclusively rolled back vehicles that were more than 10 years old when he sold them.

Because of the age of the cars, Guidry was not required to sign a disclosure certifying the mileage on those 10-year old vehicles as accurate. However, each time he altered an odometer with intent to change the mileage on the odometer, he violated federal law.

"Odometer tampering preys mostly on those in society who can least afford to be defrauded," said Stuart F. Delery, principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Civil Division. "In these tough economic times, we will take strong action against anyone who defrauds consumers and jeopardizes the safety of our roads and highways."

Special Agent Wendell Espeland of The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of Odometer Fraud Investigation (NHTSA) investigated this case. The case was prosecuted by Justice Department trial attorney David Sullivan of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch.

Car Dealer Busted, Police Charge Odometer Fraud

Task Force Claims He was Setting Mileage Back

Could face Up to 60 Years In Prison

His name is Khan, and the Broward Sheriff's Office says that's exactly what he was doing, conning customers out of their money for cars which were much more used than they thought.

42 year old Zaheer Ahmad Kahn was arrested at Auto Planet in Hollywood after deputies say they found evidence Khan had been rolling back the mileage on cars at this lot through odometer fraud.

The BSO Auto Fraud Task Force acted on a tip about the fraud and found at least a dozen cars at Auto Planet whose mileage was incorrect. BSO claimed the dealer was trying to 'make lemonade out of lemons' with the fraud, and also claimed Khan had improper 'open titles', a vehicle identification number from a car not at his lot, and other questionable paperwork.

Khan was charged on more than a dozen counts of fraud, and if convicted, could spend up to 60 years in prison.

Video available of this event online. <http://cbs4.com/consumer/Broward.News.Planet.2.394312.html>

Office Of Odometer Fraud Investigation

Odometer tampering continues to be a serious crime and consumer fraud issue. In 2002, NHTSA determined this crime allows more than 450,000 vehicles to be sold each year with false odometer readings, milking American car buyers out of more than \$1 billion annually.

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Criminal Investigations

From 2002 to 2005, we have seen a definite escalation of odometer fraud. New car prices, coupled with the increased demand for late-model, low-mileage used cars, has made odometer fraud more profitable than ever. Strong enforcement of the federal and state odometer laws, i.e., prosecutions with stiff sentences, appears to be the most effective deterrent.

Odometer Fraud February Article in Used Car News
2-2010
Catching Clockers

Arkansas AG Dustin McDaniel has filed civil suit against 3 dealers for Odo fraud dating back to 2007. At least 13 victims, likely more.

Cars were 10 years or more, which allowed them to register them as odometer exempt (state rules)

They altered the odometers anyway to mislead customers without disclosing the discrepancies.

One of the dealers told the AG he could change the odometer readings because 'odometer exempt' means the odometer does not reflect the true mileage anyway.

AG said that is deceptive and unconscionable trade practices.

Civil penalties of 10,000 per car are being asked for.

The suit now is a civil suit , but criminal charges czn still be fies.

Websites that talk about Odometer Fraud:

http://www.ehow.com/facts_7603456_odometer-rollback-fraud-rights.html
<http://www.rolledbackodometer.com/>
http://www.carfax.com/car_buying/odometer.cfx
<http://odometertampering.com/>
http://scammedinarizona.com/index_files/Page773.htm
<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2011/04/vehicle-odometer-fraud-jeopardizes-safety.html>
http://www.odometertampering.com/Cogar%20odometer_fraud_cases.htm
<http://dealerfraud.org/tag/odometer-rollback/>
<http://www.autobytel.com/car-buying-tips/car-buying-fraud-tips/what-is-odometer-fraud-100458/>
<http://ago.mo.gov/publications/auto4.htm>
<http://www.inmaricopa.com/Article/2011/05/03/odometer-fraud>
<http://www.fraudguides.com/auto-odometer-rollback.asp>
<http://www.autocheck.com/consumers/car-facts/odometer.do>
<http://lemonlawautofraud.com/odometer-fraud-odometer-rollback-fraud>
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/809441.html>
<http://ezinearticles.com/?Odometer-Fraud---Rollback,-Reset-Or-Clocking-of-the-Mileometer&id=1118305>
<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20110810230405AAnYKFV>
<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/Economy/story?id=7365206&page=1>
<http://consumer.georgia.gov/consumer-topics/odometer-fraud>
<http://www.lemonlaw.com/wordpress/odometer-rollback/>
<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Four-charged-in-odometer-rollback-scam-1317581.php>
<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2012/02/02/cbs2-investigation-uncovers-odometer-fraud-possibly-affecting-thousands-of-consumers/>
<http://ag.ky.gov/civil/consumerprotection/cars/Pages/odometer.aspx>
http://cns.jrn.msu.edu/articles/2008_1125/odometerfraud.html
http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/odometer-fraud-called-widespread-in-the-valley-costing-car-buyers-thousands
<http://notfea.org/news/>
<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/car-dealer-suspected-odometer-rollbacks/nFkF6/>
<http://www.autotrader.com/research/article/car-dealers-safety/26090/car-odometer-fraud.jsp>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/billsinger/2012/05/04/making-a-federal-case-out-of-odometer-fraud/>

Videos online:

Dynamic odometer fraud video undercover investigation.

Seattle <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHwvZHKrZTQ>

Federal Way Washington

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/car-dealer-suspected-odometer-rollbacks/nFkF6/>