

Cathy Nign

April 30, 2009

*Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner
California Dept. Of Insurance
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1600
Sacramento, California 95814*

Commissioner Poizner,

In light of today's most disturbing news, may I suggest on behalf of the injured worker community, that complete background checks are made on all State Compensation Insurance Fund employees. With the arrest of John Floyd Thomas, Jr., and the amazing amount of evidence against him, it would seem obvious that background checks are more than needed, especially regarding state employees.

Had a proper background check been done through routine screening of employment applications, several "red flags" would have been seen in Mr. Thomas's history, i.e., his dishonorable discharge from the Air Force and the fact he is a registered sex offender. As you know, claims adjusters for SCIF make daily decisions regarding benefits and medical care of claimants. Just what education or qualifications did Mr. Thomas possess that led SCIF to hire him?

May I also suggest that any cases Mr. Thomas worked on be open to scrutiny? I believe the DOJ should go through each case he handled, which could be a considerable amount, as his co-workers were quoted in the L.A. Times as saying his work involved mostly paperwork. It could also be possible that some of Mr. Thomas's victims were workers' comp claimants

I am sure that you understand the severity of this situation and will heed the call to action. I am more than sure that SCIF is, as I write this, doing whatever they deem necessary to cover their proverbial backside, which could include such deplorable excuses as "this is a personal matter," a quote from SCIF's Jennifer Vargen in the L.A. Times.

California is in an economic crisis, SCIF wants to raise rates to business owners. Don't you think it is time SCIF be held accountable for its business practices, which now includes not only its claims handling practices but who is hired to handle those claims!?

Sincerely,

Cathy Nign

CC: AG Jerry Brown
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senator Adam Schiff
State Compensation Insurance Fund
Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Bob Huff
VIAW
WorkComp Central
KFI AM c/o Ken and John Show

