

Training/Education

By request, the OFI staff members will conduct training on how to identify fraudulent documents and how to identify and investigate odometer fraud cases.

Investigative Assistance

The investigators assist State agencies with their investigations that may result in referral for Federal prosecution by the U.S. Department of Justice.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Federal/State partnership plays an important role in heightening industry and consumer awareness regarding the seriousness of odometer/title fraud. Members of the OFI staff increase public awareness through informative presentations and speeches about the office, its programs, and its relationship with other agencies regarding odometer fraud. These presentations are given to affected groups, including industry members, consumer advocates, and Federal, State, and local agencies.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit NHTSA's Web site at www.nhtsa.gov
(Click on Vehicles & Equipment tab, then click on Odometer Fraud under Browse Topics)
- Call us at **202-366-0444** or **202-366-4761**
- E-mail us at odometerfraud@dot.gov
- Office of Odometer Fraud Investigations
U.S. Department of Transportation / NHTSA
400 Seventh Street SW., Room 6130 / NVS-230
Washington, DC 20590



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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people saving people

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Office of Odometer Fraud Investigations

A magnifying glass with a wooden handle is positioned over the text, highlighting the words 'Investigations'.

Our mission,
Who we are
& What we do



www.nhtsa.dot.gov
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people saving people



Our mission

Reduce the cost of vehicle ownership by deterring odometer fraud, pursuant to Federal laws and requirements: Title 49, United States Code, Subtitle VI. Motor Vehicle and Driver Programs, Part C. Information, Standards, and Requirements, Chapter 327. Odometers; 49 C.F.R., Part 580 – Odometer Disclosure Requirements.

Who we are

The Office of Odometer Fraud Investigations (OFI) was established in 1984, and was formerly the Odometer Fraud Staff. OFI consists of four Regional Offices: the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western. Each office is staffed with a criminal investigator and administrative support.

What we do

Criminal Investigations
Consumer Outreach Program
Federal / State Partnership
Public Awareness

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Each office conducts odometer fraud investigations for criminal prosecution by the U.S. Department of Justice. Our investigators also assist State agencies that enforce odometer laws and regulations. OFI investigations resulted in over 240 criminal convictions in more than 30 States. Prison sentences ranged from one month to eight years, criminal fines totaled more than \$2.8 million, and court-ordered restitutions totaled more than \$10 million.

CONSUMER OUTREACH PROGRAM (COP)

This program provides assistance to consumers who suspect that they have been victimized by odometer fraud. COP responds to general inquiries and specific questions related to odometer fraud violations.

Consumers are provided with information on odometer laws and odometer disclosure requirements if they suspect fraudulent odometer tampering. Other resources may be recommended to assist them in their pursuit. Consumers are strongly advised to consult a private attorney to determine their legal rights and remedies in the matter.

Although we do not have the authority to pursue claims on behalf of consumers, we appreciate any information we receive that may aid our overall law enforcement efforts. To provide information, consumers may call OFI at **202-366-4761** or NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at **888-327-4236** (TTY for individuals with hearing impairments: 800-424-9153). Consumers can also e-mail OFI at **odometerfraud@dot.gov**.

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIP

This partnership helps to cultivate States' interest in odometer enforcement by providing financial assistance, training/education, and investigative assistance.

Financial Assistance

An essential part of the partnership is generating interest in the enforcement of odometer fraud by providing financial assistance through the Cooperative Reimbursable Agreement. This agreement was implemented to provide Federal assistance to selected State agencies in support of their odometer fraud investigations and prosecutions. Those State agencies that have authority to enforce Federal and/or State odometer laws and regulations qualify for the one-year \$30,000 Reimbursable Agreement to:

- Conduct investigations and prosecutions;
- File injunctions and recover damages for consumers;
- Conduct studies to detect weaknesses in motor vehicle laws, titling regulations, etc.;
- Increase awareness through educational programs; and
- Sponsor/coordinate/participate in local, regional, and/or national conferences.

The Cooperative Agreement process begins October 1st of each year (start of the Federal Government's fiscal year). However, States that qualify and are interested in applying may call **(202-366-0444)** or e-mail us **odometerfraud@dot.gov** at anytime; once five States are selected any additional applicants will be considered for the next fiscal year.