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## **CONSUMER ADVISORY**

### **FEELING BURNED BY CAR PAYMENTS? DON'T BURN YOUR CAR.**

#### **It only adds to your problems – and it doesn't get you out of your loan!**

As more people are struggling to make ends meet in this economy, many are finding that they are unable to pay their car loans. Out of desperation, some people are falsely reporting to their insurance company that their car has been stolen and even setting it on fire in a misguided attempt to collect insurance money to pay-off their loan. This is insurance fraud and can end up in criminal prosecution, jail time, penalties and fines. It also does not get you out of your car loan – you still have to pay that off, but now you don't even have your car! Also, vehicles contain a large amount of combustible materials that are extremely dangerous. Often, the person setting the car on fire can injure themselves and place the firemen and others at risk of injury.

If you find you are unable to afford your car payments, you have options:

1. Contact your lender and see if you can work out a way to make lower monthly payments.
2. Trade your car in for one that has lower payments.
3. Sell your vehicle and give the money to the lender to reduce your debt.

The most important thing is to not take an action that will endanger your life, ruin your credit, and land you in jail. For more information on insurance fraud, see *A Consumer Guide to Insurance Fraud* at [www.mdinsurance.state.md.us](http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us) or call us at (800) 492-6116. More information is available at the National Insurance Crime Bureau's website, [www.nicb.org](http://www.nicb.org) or the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud's website, [www.insurancefraud.org](http://www.insurancefraud.org).