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**Jesse White's Office Revokes Bloomington Dealership's License for Illegal Activity**

*White's office working with the Offices of the Illinois Attorney General and the Sangamon County State's Attorney for possible criminal prosecution and assistance in seeking restitution for victims*

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced today that his office has revoked the dealership license of Harjak Motors Inc. in Bloomington for illegally selling 13 unsafe vehicles that originated from Florida with Certificates of Destruction. White's office referred the matter to the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office, which has it under review for possible criminal prosecution. In addition, White's office is working with the Office of the Attorney General to assist victims in filing a consumer complaint and seeking restitution.

"My office uncovered a pattern of irregularities in vehicles sold by Bloomington's Harjak Motors that were recognized by the state of Florida to be vehicles damaged to such an extent that Florida labeled them with a Certificate of Destruction," said White. "These are vehicles that have no business being on the road."

A Certificate of Destruction in Florida is the equivalent of Illinois' Junking Certificate, which means the vehicle is only suitable for parts or recycling. Florida issues Certificates of Destruction for vehicles that have sustained 80 percent damage in a crash. Because of the level of damage sustained to these vehicles, it was determined the vehicles could not be safely restored and returned to the road. It is illegal in 47 states, including Illinois, to sell or drive vehicles that have a Junking Certificate or a Certificate of Destruction designation.

Victims are encouraged to file a consumer complaint with the Office of the Attorney General. They may call the Attorney General's hotline at 800-243-0618 to obtain a complaint form or they can find a form online at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov).

Secretary of State Police conducted an investigation and determined that used motor vehicle dealer Harjak Motors Inc. and Florida salvage buyer/used vehicle dealer Elite Transfers are owned and operated by the same entity. Harjak Motors Inc. and Elite Transfers worked in concert to disguise and to wash the history of Junk or Destruction Certificates from the vehicle.

Harjack Motors purchased the damaged vehicles from the state of Florida, brought them to Kentucky or Virginia and issued a new title in an effort to disguise or "wash" the Certificate of Destruction brand, and then transported the vehicles to Illinois to sell them as vehicles with clean titles.

"Working with Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Sangamon County State's Attorney John Milhiser on this case, our goal is to see that justice is done," said White.

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