January 3, 2013

New Penalties for Arson of Insured Property in Michigan

The Michigan legislature passed House Bill 5693, which amends the penalties for arson of an insured property. It is expected to be signed into law by Governor Snyder, and will take effect in the spring. The previous maximum sentence available to prosecutors for arson of an insured property was ten (10) years. The penalty has been increased for arson of an insured dwelling to include a sentence of up to life in prison, a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00), or a fine of up to three times the value of the property damaged. If convicted of arson to an insured property other than a dwelling, penalties were increased to not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment, and the fines mirror those for arson of an insured dwelling. Arson of insured personal property carries a term of imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years, a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000.00), or three times the value of the property damaged.

It is our sincere hope these stronger penalties will provide a tool for prosecutors to fight the crime of arson in the state of Michigan. If you have any questions regarding House Bill 5693, please feel free to contact us at any time.

I hope each and every one of you enjoyed the holiday season, and I look forward to working with you in 2013.

Sincerely yours,

M. Tyler Hull