



April 2, 2018

ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST UNLICENSED USED CAR DEALERS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced a lawsuit against two Cook County men for illegally selling used cars and altering titles to make it appear that vehicles being sold had lower mileage.

Madigan filed the lawsuit in Cook County against Arturo Perez, of Chicago, owner of Arturo's Auto Sales, and Reyes Vega, of Evanston, owner of JDM Motors Inc. Madigan alleged that even though neither Perez nor Vega is licensed to sell cars in Illinois, the men operated a scheme to sell used vehicles with high mileage to Chicago residents.

According to Madigan's complaint, the scheme started in 2012 when Perez worked for JDM Motors, a wholesale and mainly online car sales business in Hammond, Ind., which was owned by Vega. Vega authorized Perez and other employees to purchase inexpensive vehicles with high mileage from car auctions in Wisconsin. Once the vehicles were transported to Illinois, Madigan alleged the titles were altered with lower mileage numbers. Madigan alleged that Perez and Vega then illegally resold dozens of the vehicles to consumers who paid between \$500 to several thousand dollars per vehicle.

When JDM Motors was dissolved in 2014, Perez began operating as Arturo's Auto Sales in Chicago, where Madigan alleged he has continued to purchase used cars in Wisconsin for resale in Illinois. The vehicles are advertised on Craigslist and sold with altered titles that lead buyers to believe the vehicle has lower mileage. In one instance, Madigan alleged Arturo Auto Sales purchased a 2005 Suzuki Aerio with a mileage of more than 226,600 at a Wisconsin car auction. When Arturo's Auto Sales resold the Suzuki to an Illinois resident, the title listed the mileage at just over 126,600.

"The defendants operated a brazen scam," Madigan said. "It's critical that car buyers research used car dealers before shopping, and make sure to get a copy of the vehicle's history report before making any purchase."

Illinois law requires anyone who sells five or more vehicles in a calendar year to be licensed by the Illinois Secretary of State. According to Madigan's complaint, Perez attempted to hide his unlicensed sales by using the names of fictitious dealerships.

The Attorney General's lawsuit seeks to prohibit Perez and Vega from buying or selling new or used cars, managing any business that buys or sells cars and civil penalties.

Madigan encouraged people to visit her website to review a free [Consumer Guide to Buying a Used Vehicle](#) and a [Consumer Checklist](#) to obtain information and tips for purchasing a used car.

To file a complaint, visit Madigan's [website](#) or contact her office's Consumer Fraud Hotline: 1 (800) 386-5438.

Assistant Bureau Chief Greg Grzeskiewicz and Assistant Attorney General Oscar Piña are handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Bureau.

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