



- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol



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The following is a summary of a case I had in 2016 that involved using the Harmari Search.

On July 21, 2016, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Investigations office received a complaint from Adam Bates of Plain City, OH. Mr. Bates stated he purchased a 2005 Pontiac Grand Prix from Clayton Chung on July 17, 2016 for \$2300.00. The Pontiac was listed as a 2006 Pontiac on Craigslist for \$2500 with 140,000 miles. Mr. Bates test drove the vehicle and agreed to a purchase price of \$2300. The title was notarized prior to the sale. Once Mr. Bates returned home he cleaned out the vehicle and found service records for the Pontiac that indicated the mileage was higher than what was on the vehicle at the time of purchase.

Mr. Bates contacted the person on the service records, Chad Miller (Mr. Chung purchase the Pontiac from Mr. Miller). Mr. Miller advised Mr. Bates that the vehicle had over 180,000 miles on it when he had sold the vehicle to Chung.

BMV Investigator, Elizabeth Cress, used the phone number of Clayton Chung and completed a Harmari search. A Harmari search is a tool used to give a list of items sold on Craigslist with the phone number associated with the listings. The Harmari search report showed approximately 80 vehicles that were tied back to Mr. Chung's phone number.

An Automated Title Processing System II (ATPS II) search of Clayton Chung showed he had 144 titles in his name.

I took the Harmari search report and the ATPS II report and created a spreadsheet showing the vehicle description, seller (prior to Chung) and buyer's (after Chung) information, title information for the owner prior to Chung and then the current owner, odometer listed on the title for the owner prior to Chung and current owner, difference in the odometer readings, car fax odometer listing, purchase price, and Kelly Blue Book value for the odometer listed.

From this spreadsheet, I selected 5 vehicles and interviewed the person who sold the vehicle to Chung and then the person whom bought the vehicle from Chung.

I was able to interview the majority of the prior and current owners of the 5 selected vehicles. The majority of the individuals interviewed were able to provide service records, photos and signatures of Chung, and positively identify Chung as the seller or buyer.

I pursued charges against Clayton Chung for Tampering with Odometer, Tampering with Records, Falsification, and Written Notice of Tampering or Non Function with the Montgomery County Prosecutors office in Dayton, OH.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

Ohio Department of Public Safety
Page 2

On May 10, 2017, Mr. Chung pled guilty to 2 counts of Tampering with Odometer (F5), 2 counts of Tampering with Records (F3), and 2 counts of Written Notice of Tampering or Non Function. He received probation for 5 years and has \$10,568 in restitution for 10 of the victims.

The case number is 2017 CR 00386 that can be found at <http://www.clerk.co.montgomery.oh.us/pro/> .

Sincerely,



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