



# California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

## **PUC INVESTIGATION LEADS TO CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST ILLEGAL MOVER IN CORONA DEL MAR**

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) announced that the Attorney General's office on July 13, 2004, filed criminal charges against an unlicensed household goods mover based in Corona Del Mar. The PUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division received consumer complaints alleging overcharges and loss and damage to their goods transported by Kevin Winters. The investigation disclose that Kevin Winters, owner of Penny Saver Moving, Super Saver Mover and Dirt Cheap Movers, performed and advertised moving services without a valid household goods permit issued by this Commission, and without procuring evidence of public liability, cargo, and workers' compensation insurance coverage. The investigation also uncovered violations of PUC consumer protection rules that movers are required to follow. The PUC submitted the results of its investigation to the Attorney General's Office and requested that a criminal complaint be filed against Kevin Winters.

Kevin Winters was charged with 31 counts: two counts of grand theft; five counts of operating a moving company without a permit; three counts of failing to file evidence of public liability, cargo and workers' compensation insurance; five counts of unfair business practice; and sixteen counts of failing to follow rules and regulations for the performance of services by a moving company. Bail was set for \$25,000 and a warrant for his arrest was issued. Arraignment hearing was held on August 30, 2004, in which Kevin Winters pled guilty to five counts including theft, operating without a PUC permit, failing to file evidence of public liability, cargo and workers' compensation insurance on file with the Commission. Winters was ordered to pay \$2816.76 in restitution to the victims, \$225.00 to the courts, and \$2500 in investigative cost to the Commission. Winters was also placed on 3-years summary probation and released after 18 days in custody.

The Public Utilities Code makes it a crime to engage or attempt to engage in transporting used household goods without a valid PUC license. Consumers using unlicensed movers may suffer irreparable losses of personal belongings with little means of recovery.

