



Pennsylvania
State Police

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2026

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Cresson Man Charged with Deceptive or Fraudulent Business Practices and Theft by Deception

Charges were filed following investigation into the unlawful sales of vehicles.

Cresson Township, PA – A Cresson man has been charged by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) with deceptive or fraudulent business practices, theft by deception, and other counts following investigation into the unlawful sales of vehicles in Cambria County and the surrounding region.

David James Gaida, 28, was charged on October 16 with two felony counts of theft by deception, one felony count of deceptive or fraudulent business practices, five misdemeanor counts of false application for certificate of title or registration, and 11 counts of unsworn falsification to authorities.

Gaida was also charged with six summary violations under Title 75, Vehicles and 51 summary violations under Title 63, Professions and Occupations (State Licensed).

Charges were filed at Magisterial District Court 47-3-03.

Gaida was arraigned on October 19 before Magisterial District Judge John Prebish, Jr. and was released on \$50,000 unsecured bail.

On August 21, 2026, a Trooper with the PSP Troop A Vehicle Fraud Investigation Unit initiated an investigation into recent unlawful activity and false statements related to the sales of vehicles by the defendant, Gaida, to individuals in the Cambria County area.

In the course of the investigation, it was learned that Gaida posted vehicles for sale online and met potential buyers at various locations. Buyers also reported that Gaida failed to respond to their attempts to contact him after they experienced difficulty with transferring the vehicle title.

Gaida was also found to have engaged in 54 documented vehicle transactions during calendar year 2026 while he was not licensed as a vehicle dealer as was therefore in violation of the Pennsylvania Board of Vehicles Act.

In nine of the documented transactions in which title histories were collected, the purchaser, when later interviewed by the investigating Trooper, acknowledged that the listed sales price of the vehicle was not the actual sales price as was affirmed by both the purchaser and Gaida on PennDOT Form MV-3, Motor Vehicle Verification of Fair Market Value.

In two of the documented transactions in which title histories were collected, the purchaser, when interviewed, acknowledged that a PennDOT Form MV-13ST, Affidavit of Gift, was completed despite that payment was exchanged and the vehicle was not gifted to them.

The Cresson Borough Police Department also assisted with this investigation.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for November 24 at 1:00 p.m.

For more information on the Pennsylvania State Police, visit the [PSP website](#).

Reference CAD Number: PA2026-1058034; Investigating Officer: TFC. Joshua Deitle

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