

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

ANTHONY P. KEARNS, III  
PROSECUTOR

DEBORAH D. FACTOR  
FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR



JOHN J. KUCZYNSKI  
CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

Justice Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
65 Park Avenue  
PO Box 756  
Flemington, NJ 08822-0756

Telephone 908-788-1129  
Fax 908-806-4618

[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor.htm)

## **MEDIA RELEASE – JUNE 16, 2017**

### **ALEXANDRIA MAN INDICTED FOR ARSON**

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, announced the indictment of Christopher R. DeFago, age 55, of Alexandria, NJ. On June 15, 2017, Mr. DeFago was indicted by a Hunterdon County Grand Jury for one count of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Arson and one count of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Criminal Mischief.

Prosecutor Kearns stated, “Mr. DeFago was arrested on April 3, 2017, after an investigation by detectives from the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office Arson Task Force and the New Jersey State Police Kingwood Barracks revealed the defendant knowingly started a fire for the purpose of collecting insurance money. The arson occurred at the defendant’s residence in Alexandria.”

If convicted of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree crime Mr. DeFago could be sentenced to 5 to 10 years in State Prison.

Prosecutor Kearns added, “Arson is a very serious offense that puts not only property and innocent lives at stake but also the lives of the brave men and women firefighters called upon to extinguish the blaze.”

The filing of a criminal complaint is merely a step in the criminal justice process. The defendant is presumed innocent until the matter is resolved in a court of law.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010 or by going to [www.crimestoppershunterdon.com](http://www.crimestoppershunterdon.com), or text messaging “HCTIPS” plus your tip message to 274637 (CRIMES). Tipsters can also download the free mobile app “Tipsubmit” and select Hunterdon County to submit anonymous tips via text messaging. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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