RENTAL HOUSE SYNDICATE

Incident Report

FRAUD | June 19, 2026 | $27,000.00

Incident Summary

Renter / Subject	David Ayala Bernal,
Production	Jason Smelser Photography
Incident Type	fraud Rented/not returned
Date of Loss	June 19, 2026
Estimated Value	$27,000.00
Status	Approved

Location

Houston, TX
United States Incident Type Rented

Incident Details

Insured: Named Insured: Savage Henry Films Company Policy: Commercial PKG/ Equipment Floater Policy #: US UEN 2770782.26 Policy Period: 4/24/26 - 4/24/27 Contact Name: Rob Neilson Contact Number: (516) 729-8483 - cell Contact Email: rob@savagehenryfilms.com Who: Renter/ Imposter Photographer: "Jason Smelser," 281-803-8736 PA for Pick-up: "David," 346-417-5647 Real Photographer: Jason Smelser, 281-223-6703 Other Person Scammed: Brittan Orrange (Contractor), 512-966-1060 What: Equipment: 1. 50mm T2.2 Cooke Panchro Classic No. 3050-0154, Value: $11,900 2. 75mm T2.2 Cooke Panchro Classic No. 3075-0154, Value: $12,900 3. In 2x Atlas lens IP67 cases with custom foam Value: $238 Replacement Cost Value: $38,000 (All) Replacement Cost Value (w/o Tax): $25,038 (Just Panchros & Cases -Tax) Replacement Cost Value (Incld Tax): $27,298.08 Rental Cost: $450 $300 Item Cost: $150 each Rental Payment: (QuickBooks receipt attached) Payment Date: 6/19/26 Billing Address: 6128 Carlsle Ln, League City, TX 77573 Amount: $300 Payment ID: 775717 Card: Visa *9427 Deposit Details: Wells Fargo Bank *8343 When: Rental Pick-up Date: 6/19/26 Rental Return Date: 6/22/26 Supporting Information: Police Report: Sugarland PD case #26-04520 csvoboda@sugarlandTX.gov Phone # ID Search: (a Police Officer searched the phone number of the individual who picked up the lenses) Name: David Ayala Bernal Address: 2023 Rancho Grande, Houston TX 77049 TX DL: 26783507 Details: license is suspended due to him overstaying his visa Thimble / Reserve Insurance Claim Number: 26CPTX612214451=0A Description of Loss: Someone who was posing as a legitimate wedding photographer got in touch wanting to rent some lenses. I sent them the contract, they signed off and gave me a COI (attached), credit card etc. They ended up reducing the order to only two lenses, and I went ahead and tried to charge the card. It declined, but that happens sometimes when I process cards via QuickBooks. They promptly paid via the link I sent them after (attached). I was on set for the pickup

day, so they were going to meet me at the location where I was working. They were tied up, so they sent their "PA" David to pick them up. It’s unclear if he was involved in this scheme, or just a random production assistant or Uber courier they hired. He took the lenses and went on his way. For return time they were "30 minutes out" and then stopped all communication. The COI was valid on 6/18/26 but then cancelled on 6/19/26. (Thimble contacted for Details for COI) After the lenses failed to be returned, I contacted the real photographer through my network, and he had said that someone had scammed other people using his name and put me in contact. It looks like they also successfully targeted Omega Broadcast in Austin. Folks in my network in Houston were hit by these same guys last year and contacted by the same people posing as Smelser this past week. I opened a police report with the Sugarland PD and gave them all this same info (case number above). I sent David Ayala Bernal a Demand Letter on 6/23/26 (attached). Thimble insurance called back and opened a claim into the fraudulent COI (claim number above).

Parsed police report number text: Sugarland PD case #26-04520 csvoboda@sugarlandTX.gov Phone # ID Search: (a Police Officer searched the phone number of the individual who picked up the lenses) Name: David Ayala Bernal Address: 2023 Rancho Grande, Houston TX 77049 TX DL: 26783507 Details: license is suspended due to him overstaying his visa Thimble / Reserve Insurance Claim Number: 26CPTX612214451=0A Description of Loss: Someone who was posing as a legitimate wedding photographer got in touch wanting to rent some lenses. I sent them the contract, they signed off and gave me a COI (attached), credit card etc. They ended up reducing the order to only two lenses, and I went ahead and tried to charge the card. It declined, but that happens sometimes when I process cards via QuickBooks. They promptly paid via the link I sent them after (attached). I was on set for the pickup day, so they were going to meet me at the location where I was working. They were tied up, so they sent their "PA" David to pick them up. It’s unclear if he was involved in this scheme, or just a random production assistant or Uber courier they hired. He took the lenses and went on his way. For return time they were "30 minutes out" and then stopped all communication. The COI was valid on 6/18/26 but then cancelled on 6/19/26. (Thimble contacted for Details for COI) After the lenses failed to be returned, I contacted the real photographer through my network, and he had said that someone had scammed other people using his name and put me in contact. It looks like they also successfully targeted Omega Broadcast in Austin. Folks in my network in Houston were hit by these same guys last year and contacted by the same people posing as Smelser this past week. I opened a police report with the Sugarland PD and gave them all this same info (case number above). I sent David Ayala Bernal a Demand Letter on 6/23/26 (attached). Thimble insurance called back and opened a claim into the fraudulent COI (claim number above).

Renter Information

Company	Not provided
Phone	Not provided
Email	Not provided
Drivers License	Not provided

Equipment Involved

Item	Manufacturer	Model	Serial
Cameras (Motion), Len...	Cooke	Panchro Classi...	3050-0154, 3075-0154

Police / Insurance

Police Department	Not provided
Police Report Number	Sugarland PD case #26-04520 csvoboda@sugarlandTX.gov Phone # ID Search: (a Police Offic
Insurance Company	Hiscox
Insurance Claim Number	Not provided

Reported By

Company	Savage henry films
Contact	Rob Neilson
Email	rob@savagehenryfilms.com
Phone	516-729-8483
Submitted	June 29, 2026 2:43 PM