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Rochester Hills car salesman faces court today over odometer fraud

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A 41-year-old car salesman at Huntington Ford in Rochester Hills faces a court hearing today for allegedly installing switches that let lease-car drivers shut off their cars' odometers to understate the mileage they drove.

Randall Hill is scheduled for a preliminary exam in 52-3 District Court in Rochester Hills on three counts of odometer fraud, each a felony with penalties of up to five years in prison and fines of \$5,000, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. He is free on a personal bond of \$2,500, police said.

Last week, undercover officers acting on a tip visited the dealership asking to lease a vehicle from Hill, who agreed to a two-year lease at 10,500 miles per year for \$13,700, then demonstrated the odometer switch to one officer, said Maj. Robert Smith.

Also charged is dealership saleswoman Michelle Ehlert, 44, free on a personal bond of \$5,000 and facing a preliminary exam in the same court on Oct. 13, Smith said today. Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said today he did not believe the dealership was aware of "this new, high-tech method to commit this crime."

Hill and Ehlert are "absolutely not" still working at the dealership, owner Patrick Scoggin of Grosse Pointe Shores said today.

"It's really disappointing to have something like this happen," Scoggin said. "We've been here almost 30 years, and we have a great reputation."
