

**\* NEWS RELEASE \***

**DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION APPLICANT FRAUD AND AUTO  
INSURANCE FRAUD**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 24, 2009**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Maria Garcia Navarro, age 24, of Watsonville was sentenced by Judge Larry E. Hayes for false or fraudulent statements to obtain workers' compensation benefits and making a false automobile insurance claim.

On September 12, 2006, the defendant reported she had sustained a work related injury when the car she was driving was hit while she was transporting medical/dental equipment for her employer. The defendant also pursued a bodily injury liability claim against the driver's insured, California State Automobile Association [CSAA]. The defendant sought medical treatment for her alleged injury and her claim was processed and workers' compensation benefits were provided by Zenith Insurance Company. During an investigation it was discovered that the defendant was not in the car or any where near the car at the time of the collision. CSAA and Zenith Insurance submitted the case to the Monterey County District Attorney's Workers' Compensation Prosecution Unit.

Ms. Navarro was placed on felony probation for three years and ordered to serve 150 days in county jail or complete an equivalent work alternative program. As part of her terms and conditions of probation, the defendant was ordered to pay victim restitution of \$3,853.41 to Zenith Insurance Company and \$735.10 to CSAA. Additionally, the defendant was ordered to pay a \$1,000.00 fine to Department of Insurance, Fraud Division.

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