

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS PAIN DOCTOR VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERS RIGHT TO PRESCRIBE ANY MEDICATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Amy Patterson, DDA
831-755-5252**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that as a condition of bail Salinas physician Steven Mangar is prohibited from possessing, prescribing or otherwise distributing any prescription medication. Dr. Mangar also agreed to surrender all prescription pads and all Drug and Enforcement Administration permits. Also, he will completely abstain from the personal use or possession of controlled substances.

As part of this agreement, he is required to notify his patients of his inability to prescribe any and all medication.

Dr. Mangar was arrested and charged with 37 felony offenses in May of 2016, following an investigation that was conducted jointly by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, the California Department of Insurance, and the California Medical Board. The charges consist of submitting fraudulent health insurance claims and billings, furnishing drugs to an addict, and unlawful prescribing of medicine to patients who did not have the condition for which it was intended. In addition, he is charged with enhancements alleging his felonious conduct resulted in him fraudulently taking more than \$500,000.

The newly launched Monterey County District Attorney Healthcare Fraud Unit aggressively prosecutes prescription drug fraud by medical providers in Monterey County. The unit also investigates and prosecutes other cases including: Use of another's identity to secure healthcare benefits, embezzlement, unlawful solicitations/referrals, fraudulent billing, inflated or falsified pharmacy billings, out-patient surgery center fraud, and fraudulent disability claims.