

NEWS RELEASE

SOCIAL WORKER SENTENCED FOR COMMITTING FELONY WELFARE FRAUD

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Cassandra Pacheco, a Hollister resident and San Benito County social worker, was sentenced by the Honorable Carrie Panetta to 3 years Formal Probation and ordered to serve 40 days in the Monterey County jail. Ms. Pacheco was also ordered to pay full restitution as part of her probationary term.

Using a state database that matches Employment Development Department records with local welfare records it was discovered that for nearly a year Pacheco failed to report to Monterey County Department of Social Services (MCDSS) income she earned in San Benito County. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud Unit determined that Pacheco never informed MCDSS of the income she earned as a social worker with San Benito County. As a result Pacheco fraudulently obtained \$8,086.00 in aid. She has repaid most of the money which was taken into consideration by the court at sentencing.

It is illegal to use benefits belonging to another or benefits obtained using misrepresentations. Monterey County Department of Social Services along with Monterey County District Attorney's Office has a Welfare Fraud tip line. If you have information regarding welfare fraud you can leave an anonymous tip at (831)755-3224.

Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Robin Smith investigated this case.

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