

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

MONTEREY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THREATENING TO POISON MOTHER

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Di Cerulean Stylo, age 30 of Monterey, pleaded guilty yesterday to two felony counts of making threats against the life of her mother. Stylo was arrested earlier this year after a relative recorded a conversation where Stylo detailed a plan to poison her mother with a rare Southeast Asian plant seed.

In May 2016, Stylo first approached a relative and told him of a plan she had formulated to poison her mother using cerbera odollam, a plant seed from Southeast Asia that is fatal when ingested. It is commonly known as the "suicide tree." Stylo had been conducting online research on the deadly properties of the plant and had purchased the seeds online. She did not ask the relative to do anything to help her kill the mother, but wanted his approval for her to carry out the killing. The relative contacted Monterey Police Department, who asked him to wear a recording device and talk to Stylo again about her plan.

During the recorded conversation, Stylo reiterated her plan to poison her mother using the cerbera odollam seeds. She said that she would begin to cook dinner for her mother a week or so ahead of the poisoning so that it would not seem suspicious when the mother died after eating the food. Stylo asked the relative to eat the same meal that she would cook for the mother so that no one would suspect that the food had killed the victim. Stylo was arrested by Monterey Police Department before she could attempt to carry out the killing, but police found cerbera odollam seeds being cultivated in Stylo's apartment.

Stylo pleaded guilty to one count of making a criminal threat to kill her mother, a felony "strike" offense, and one felony count of threatening to place a harmful substance in food or drink. Monterey Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence Stylo to three years of formal felony probation on November 17, 2016. She will be ordered to have no contact with her family members for 10 years.

The case was investigated by Monterey Police Department Detectives Kris Richardson, Bryan Kruse and Jeff Welch, Monterey Officer Bryce Morgan, and District Attorney Investigator Alicia Cox.