

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FAILURE TO SECURE WORKERS' COMPENSATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: CAROL REED, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5128**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that Fernando Sanchez pled to one misdemeanor count of Failure to Secure Workers' Compensation insurance and admitted he had previously been convicted of the same offense. Mr. Sanchez was placed on probation for a period of three years, ordered to serve 40 days in county jail and pay a \$10,000 fine with \$5,000 suspended during the term of probation. The fine is paid to the Uninsured Employers Fund. The defendant can complete his jail time by completing a work alternative program. Mr. Sanchez was also ordered to maintain workers' compensation insurance for all employees. Mr. Sanchez appeared in court with his Carmel business license and proof of workers' compensation insurance.

On January 5, 2017, Carmel code compliance officer provided a tip to the Contractors State License Board [CSLB] Investigator Zachary Zeidman that the defendant was trimming trees and had an employee present at the site working. The defendant is a licensed contractor but had filed an "exempt" status with CSLB stating he was not subject to the law as he did not have any employees. At the time of his filing for exempt status he did not have employees but later hired employees without securing workers' compensation insurance. Due to this second conviction, the defendant was advised in court that a third conviction carries a mandatory fine of \$50,000.

Business owners and the public need to be aware that California law requires all employers to secure workers' compensation insurance for their employees so that there is an assurance of adequate medical coverage and other benefits for employees for any work related injuries or illness that may occur.

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