

NEWS RELEASE

KINGS COUNTY COUPLE SENTENCED IN FELONY WELFARE FRAUD CASE

June 16, 2017

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Kings County residents Gustavo Ceja, age 29 and Karina Gonzalez-Salazar, age 30, were sentenced to 3 years formal probation before Judge Andrew Liu. The defendants are required to pay full restitution of \$17,598.00 to the Monterey County Department of Social Services.

Using a state database that matches Employment Development Department records with local welfare records it was discovered that Mr. Ceja failed to report income earned at various jobs to Monterey County Department of Social Services (MCDSS). At the time of the fraud, the defendants were receiving cash aid and food stamps for themselves and their 6 children while living in Greenfield. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud Unit determined that neither defendant informed MCDSS of the income Mr. Ceja earned as required. As a result the two fraudulently obtained \$17,598.00 in aid over the course of 1 year and 3 months.

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 Jose Lopez investigated this case.

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