

NEWS RELEASE

BOXER AND RETIRED POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF FELONY WELFARE FRAUD

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Las Vegas resident and competitive boxer Jamie Mitchell, age 32 along with retired Seaside police officer Barry Pasquerosa, age 60, were sentenced to 3 years formal probation before Judge Carrie Panetta. The defendants have paid full restitution of \$13,640.00 to the Monterey County Department of Social Services (MCDSS).

Between 2014 and 2016, Ms. Mitchell received community benefits from MCDSS for her and her son. Mitchell consistently reported to MCDSS that she was living with Barry Pasquerosa in Monterey County. In 2015 while reading an article in a local publication about Ms. Mitchell's boxing career, an employee with MCDSS who was familiar with Ms. Mitchell's community benefits case, learned that Ms. Mitchell relocated to Las Vegas to further her boxing career. This MCDSS employee knew that Ms. Mitchell did not report this change that would make her ineligible for benefits through Monterey County. An investigation by the Monterey County District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud Unit uncovered that Ms. Mitchell was indeed living in Las Vegas, enrolled her son in school in Las Vegas since 2014 and failed to report this information to MCDSS as required. Instead Ms. Mitchell maintained that she resided in Monterey County renting a room from Mr. Pasquerosa and continued to collect welfare benefits. Mr. Pasquerosa aided Ms. Mitchell by submitting forms to MCDSS on her behalf, unlawfully used her benefits and attempted to cover up for Ms. Mitchell.

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 Investigators Don Magnuson, Fred Lombardi and Martin Sanchez investigated this case.