

NEWS RELEASE

SALON OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY WELFARE FRAUD

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Iroenia Pacheco-Mandujano entered a guilty plea to felony welfare fraud before Judge Carrie Panetta. The defendant defrauded \$22,321.00 from the Monterey County Department of Social Services (MCDSS).

Between 2011 and 2014 the defendant received community benefits from MCDSS for her and her three minor children. When Ms. Pacheco-Mandujano initially applied for aid, she declared under oath that the father of her children was not living in the home and only making small child support contributions. An anonymous complaint was made on the Monterey County's District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud Tip Line that alleged that Ms. Pacheco-Mandujano's husband was in the home and was employed and that she was operating a beauty salon and not reporting that income to MCDSS. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud unit launched an investigation and confirmed the anonymous tip. The defendant's husband, father to her three children, had always lived in the home and was employed the entire time defendant reported him absent. Investigators also confirmed that defendant owned a beauty salon that she never reported.

Ms. Pacheco-Mandujano will be sentenced on August 24, 2017 by Judge Carrie Panetta. It is expected that Ms. Pacheco-Mandujano will receive a grant of formal probation for 3 years and will be required to pay restitution in full. She faces up to 364 days in county jail if placed on probation.

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 Fred Lombardi and Don Magnuson investigated this case.

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