

NEWS RELEASE

SALINAS RESIDENT SENTENCED IN FELONY WELFARE FRAUD CASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Salinas resident Sylvia Flores, age 27, was sentenced to 3 years formal probation and 40 days jail by Judge Andrew Liu for committing welfare fraud. The defendant defrauded \$6,932.00 from the Monterey County Department of Social Services (MCDSS). Today, the court ordered her to pay full restitution to MCDSS.

Between March 2015 through February 2016 the defendant received community benefits for her minor child. Ms. Flores claimed to MCDSS that her son lived with her full time and was given CalWorks (cash aid) and CalFresh (food stamps) benefits based on that representation. However, MCDSS received information that the child was living with a relative in another county. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office Welfare Fraud Unit investigated the claim and determined that the child was indeed living with another relative outside of this county.

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 Robin Smith investigated this case.

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