

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO OBTAINING AIDE BY MEANS OF MISREPRESENTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2017

**CONTACT: Jim Martin, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5321**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Licila Castillo, age 34, a resident of Salinas, pled guilty to felony receiving aide by misrepresentation. The plea was taken by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Andrew Liu.

Between the dates of December 1, 2012 and June 1, 2016, Castillo was receiving both cash aide and food stamps claiming that the father of her two children was an absent parent and that she needed these benefits to support her kids. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office revealed that in fact the father of Castillo's children was not an absent parent and had been living in her home and employed during the fraud period. This resulted in the household receiving income well above the income threshold to receive any benefits. In addition, it was discovered that Castillo had misrepresented her household income on her eligibility status reports and to the Department of Social Services. Castillo's misrepresentation resulted in a total over payment of benefits of \$31,741.00.

Castillo will be sentenced by Judge Liu on April 18, 2018. She faces three years of formal felony probation and 365 days in jail. In addition, she will be ordered to pay back the over payment of benefits directly to the Department of Social Services.

The case was investigated by the Department of Social Services and District Attorney Investigator Jose Lopez.