

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF CHARITY ORGANIZATION ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Lolita Garcia, a resident of Santa Cruz, was arrested by Monterey County District Attorney Investigators on March 19, 2018 for embezzlement, money laundering, and tax evasion charges.

Lolita Garcia is the Executive Director and President of Central Coast Kids & Families. Central Coast Kids & Families is an organization that provides services to children and students with disabilities and special needs, including in-home respite care and in-school educational aides in Monterey County. From 2013 through 2015, while Central Coast Kids & Families was a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity, Lolita Garcia allegedly embezzled over \$675,000 of the charity's funds.

After her arrest, she was booked in the Santa Cruz County Jail and was released on bail the same day. Her arraignment is scheduled at the Salinas Courthouse on April 19, 2018.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office obtained a temporary restraining order from the Monterey Superior Court pursuant to the aggravated white collar crime statute on March 20, 2018, which freezes assets owned and controlled by Lolita Garcia and preserves such assets for purposes of fines and restitution during the pendency of legal proceedings.

If you were an employee of Central Coast Kids & Families around this timeframe, or if you have information regarding the charity, please contact District Attorney Investigator Jackie Meroney at (831) 647-7706.