

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS COUPLE PLEAD GUILTY TO OBTAINING AIDE BY MEANS OF MISREPRESENTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean Flippo announced today that on May 11, 2018, Abelina Franco, age 42, and Jeronimo Flores, age 43, both residents of Salinas, plead guilty to felony receiving aide by misrepresentation. The plea was taken by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela Butler.

Between the dates of January 1st, 2012 and April 1st, 2017, Both Franco and Flores were living together and receiving cash aide and food stamps. They had claimed they were unemployed and needed the aide to support their family. A subsequent investigation conducted by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office revealed that both Franco and Flores were employed during the fraud period and were receiving income well above their income threshold level to receive any benefits. In addition, it was discovered that both individuals had misrepresented their income on their eligibility status reports and to the Department of Social Services. This misrepresentation resulted in a total overpayment of benefits of \$37,957.00.

Both Franco and Flores will be sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler on August 24, 2018. Both defendants are facing three years of formal felony probation and up to 365 days in the county Jail. In addition, they will be ordered to pay back the overpayment 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

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