

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS COUPLE PLEAD GUILTY TO OBTAINING AIDE BY MEANS OF MISREPRESENTATION WITHIN THE COUNTY MONTEREY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Ryan Kapku, age 35, and Christina Leon, age 41, both residents of Salinas, pled guilty to felony receiving aide by misrepresentation.

Between the dates of October 1, 2013, and February 1, 2014, Kapku and Leon lived together and received cash aide and food stamps. They 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 Kapku was in fact employed during the fraud period and was receiving income well above the income threshold level to receive any benefits. In addition, both individuals misrepresented this income on their eligibility status reports and to the Department of Social Services. This misrepresentation resulted in a total overpayment of benefits of \$2,811.00

Kapku and Leon will be sentenced by Judge Pamela Butler on November 2, 2018, and 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 Robin Smith

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