

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

MONTEREY WOMAN RECEIVES 6 YEARS, 8 MONTHS IN JAIL FOR \$557,000 THEFT FROM ELDERLY MOTHER

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced that on October 16, 2018, Aman Suleiman Shawar, age 38 of Monterey, was sentenced to six years and 8 months in county jail for 21 felony offenses, including theft from an elder adult, identity theft and money laundering. The charges arose from a conspiracy to commit identity theft of her 68-year-old mother that resulted in a loss of more than half a million dollars. Shawar was found guilty of the 21 felonies after a six-day jury trial in September.

Beginning in approximately April 2014, Shawar created a false e-mail account in her mother's name, which she and a co-conspirator used to open multiple credit cards in her mother's name without consent. They also obtained the password to her mother's actual e-mail account and used it to gain access to her online banking. Shawar and her co-conspirator then used the false and legitimate credit cards in her mother's name to purchase hundreds of thousands of dollars of jewelry, clothing, and other property. Shawar's mother declared bankruptcy because of the damage to her credit caused by the fraudulent accounts.

The jury convicted Shawar of 11 counts of theft from an elder adult, four counts of identity theft, and six counts of money laundering.

Monterey Superior Court Judge Mark E. Hood, who presided over the trial, said it was the biggest fraud case he had dealt with in his 30 years of law practice. In imposing sentence, Hood rejected Shawar's continuing denial of any responsibility for the scheme. "You have no credibility with this court whatsoever," he told her. "You are a liar, yet you believe your lies."

Hood allowed Shawar to serve the final three years of her jail term on mandatory supervision through the Monterey County Probation Department. She was ordered to have no contact with the victim for 10 years and to pay full restitution.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Steven Guidi, Forensic Accountant Sandra Kyzivat of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, and Sergeant Jeremiah Ruttschow and Officer Brent Hall with the Monterey Police Department.