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PRESS RELEASE

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MONTEREY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WELFARE FRAUD

People v Jamie L. Hinton; Case No. 18CR009951

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on January 15, 2019, Jamie L. Hinton, age 41, resident of Monterey, pled guilty to felony welfare fraud. The plea was taken by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta.

Between the months of January 2016 and September 2017, Hinton was receiving both cash aide (CalWorks) and food stamps (CalFresh) claiming that she needed these benefits to help support her two children who were living with her. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office revealed that in fact her two daughters were living with their father in Carmel the entire fraud period and not with her.

This resulted in her household receiving income well above the income threshold level to receive any benefits for care and support of children. In addition, it was discovered that Hinton had misrepresented her household composition on her eligibility status reports as well as to the Department of Social Services. Hinton's misrepresentation resulted in a total over payment of benefits of \$18,717.00

Hinton will be sentenced on a date to be announced as she has other matters pending. She faces three years of formal felony probation, up to 365 days in jail, and will be ordered to pay back the loss directly to the Department of Social Services.

It is illegal to use benefits belonging to another or benefits obtained using misrepresentations. Monterey County Department of Social Services along with Monterey County District Attorney's Office has a Welfare Fraud tip line. If you have information regarding welfare fraud you can leave an anonymous tip at (831)755-3224.

The case was investigated by the Department of Social Services and District Attorney Investigator Robin Smith.