



**JEANNINE M. PACIONI**  
District Attorney

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **SALINAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WELFARE FRAUD**

*People v. Marisela Flores-Gomez; Case NO 18CR009027*

*SALINAS*, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that on January 18, 2019, Marisela Flores-Gomez, age 55, resident of Salinas, plead guilty to felony welfare fraud. The plea was taken by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Pamela L. Butler.

Between the months of February 2014 and October 2015, Flores-Gomez was receiving both cash aide (CalWorks) and food stamps (CalFresh) claiming that she needed these benefits to help support the members of her household. A subsequent investigation by the Department of Social Services and the Monterey County District Attorney's office revealed that Flores-Gomez's adult son, who was living in the home, was working full time at Ceres Fresh Foods LLC during the entire fraud period.

This resulted in her household receiving income well above the income threshold level to receive any benefits. In addition, it was discovered that Flores-Gomez misrepresented this financial information on her eligibility status reports to the Department of Social Services. Flores-Gomez's misrepresentation resulted in a total over payment of benefits of \$10,313.00

Flores-Gomez will be sentenced by Judge Butler on March 20, 2019. 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 report false information in order to obtain community benefits. Monterey County Department of Social Services, along with the 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

This case was investigated by the Department of Social Services and District Attorney Investigator Kris Hunsaker.