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PRESS RELEASE

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CANNABIS BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR FAILING TO CARRY WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

People v. Vanessa Lizeth Aguilar

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Vanessa Lizeth Aguilar, a 37-year old Soledad resident who owns a cannabis delivery service in Salinas, was sentenced on March 15, 2019 to 3 years' probation for failing to carry workers' compensation insurance. Judge Thomas Wills also ordered Ms. Aguilar to pay a \$3,500 fine and she faces up to 1-year in county jail and additional fines if she violates her probation.

Ms. Aguilar owns Golden Essentials Delivery. Her company, which has 8 employees, began doing business, under state and city licensing, on January 1, 2018. Since she has employees, California law requires that Ms. Aguilar maintain workers' compensation insurance. While she initially did have workers' compensation insurance, her policy with the State Compensation Insurance Fund expired on March 26, 2018. On June 27, 2018, Monterey County District Attorney Investigators asked Ms. Aguilar to provide verification that she had workers' compensation insurance. She conceded that she did not have a policy, which is a misdemeanor under California Labor Code section 3700.5. The District Attorney filed criminal charges on October 30, 2018.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigators George Costa and Steve Guidi.

Under California criminal law, business owners need to be aware that California law requires all employers to secure workers' compensation insurance for their employees. Workers' compensation insurance ensures employees injured on the job have adequate medical coverage and other benefits.