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PRESS RELEASE

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SALINAS RESIDENT PLEADS TO FELONY WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE FRAUD

People v. German Cruz-Navarro

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that German Cruz-Navarro, a 43-year-old Salinas resident, pled no contest to committing insurance fraud on the California State Compensation Insurance Fund.

In September 2016, Cruz-Navarro sustained an injury while working for his employer. In the ensuing 14 months, he told treating doctors and his insurance adjuster that he was unable to work due to his pain and symptoms. These representations allowed him to receive nearly \$30,000.00 in temporary disability payments from the employer's workers' compensation insurance provider, State Compensation Insurance Fund. The investigation revealed that two months after his reported injury, he resumed working as a roofer with different employers, but he failed to inform his doctors or the insurance provider.

During their criminal investigation, District Attorney investigators interviewed Cruz-Navarro who admitted that he had resumed work without telling his doctors or his insurance adjuster. He also admitted that he knew he would lose his temporary disability benefits if he disclosed his employment. Judge Andrew Liu accepted Cruz-Navarro's no contest plea on April 24, 2019. Cruz-Navarro is expected to make full restitution prior to his sentencing date next year.

The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator George Costa.