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PRESS RELEASE

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Carmel Contractor Sentenced for Failing to Carry Workers' Compensation Insurance

People v. Raymond John Coopersmith, Jr.

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that Raymond John Coopersmith, Jr., a 55-year-old Carmel resident, was sentenced by the Judge Thomas Wills on August 14, 2019 to 2 years' probation and ordered to pay a \$3,000 fine for failing to carry workers' compensation insurance. Coopersmith faces up to 1-year in county jail and additional fines if he violates his probation.

On February 22, 2019, the Contractor State Licensing Board ("CSLB") investigated Coopersmith's business, "Carmel Coatings", for the use of uninsured labor at a residence in Carmel, California. At the time, Coopersmith's contractor license was suspended and he had filed a Workers' Compensation Exemption with the CSLB – stating that he had no employees and did not need workers' compensation insurance. During the investigation, CSLB interviewed a worker at the project and determined that Coopersmith was the employer. The case was referred to the Monterey County District Attorney's Workers Compensation Fraud Unit. Coopersmith was charged with failing to secure workers' compensation insurance, a misdemeanor violation of Labor Code section 3700.5.

The case was investigated by the Contractor State Licensing Board.

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. Persons having information about suspected workers' compensation fraud are encouraged to contact the District Attorney's office at 831-755-3224.