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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 11/7/2008
Re: Twelve Convictions in Welfare Fraud
Cases in October 2008

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that twelve defendants were found guilty during the month of October 2008 of having committed Welfare Fraud as a result of their failures to reveal on their applications for Cash Aid and Food Stamps that they were not eligible for such benefits. Seven of these defendants entered pleas to felony charges and five pled to misdemeanors. The cases were investigated by the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency's Special Investigations Unit.

Arthur Stigar was convicted on October 1 of felony welfare fraud, placed on five years formal probation and sentenced to 60 days in jail. He was ordered to pay \$7,088 in restitution.

Yesenia Saenz was convicted on October 3 of felony welfare fraud and sentenced to sixteen months in the California Rehabilitation Center concurrent with sentences in other cases totaling four years. She was ordered to pay restitution of \$3,500.

Alicia Wilson was convicted on October 6 of felony welfare fraud, placed on five years formal probation and sentenced to 75 days in jail. She was ordered to pay \$9,973 in restitution.

Ruth Briscoe was convicted on October 9 of felony welfare fraud, placed on three years formal probation and sentenced to 240 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$3,901 in restitution.

Louis Albert Hernandez was convicted on October 9 of felony welfare fraud, placed on five years formal probation and sentenced to 432 hours community service. He was ordered to pay \$1,788 in restitution.

Staci Zuniga was convicted on October 27 of felony welfare fraud, placed on five years formal probation and sentenced to 480 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$3,693 in restitution.

Jecenia Medina was convicted on October 30 of felony welfare fraud, placed on five years formal probation and sentenced to 90 days in jail. She was ordered to pay \$12,588 in restitution.

Maria Monroy was convicted on October 2 of misdemeanor welfare fraud, placed on three years probation and sentenced to 120 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$1,169 in restitution.

Estella Hernandez was convicted on October 9 of misdemeanor welfare fraud, placed on three years probation and sentenced to 240 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$1,788 in restitution.

Gabriella Rodriguez was convicted on October 24 of misdemeanor welfare fraud, placed on three years probation and sentenced to 10 days in jail, suspended. She was ordered to pay \$4,634 in restitution.

Sheila Cotton was convicted on October 30 of misdemeanor welfare fraud, placed on three years probation and sentenced to 90 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$398 in restitution.

Tina Castillejos was convicted on October 30 of misdemeanor welfare fraud, placed on three years probation and sentenced to 480 hours community service. She was ordered to pay \$816 in restitution.

The sentences in welfare fraud cases vary depending upon each defendant's criminal history, the amount he or she has defrauded the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, whether he or she has made voluntary repayments, the nature of the misrepresentations, and the age of the case. To report welfare fraud, contact the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency's Special Investigations Unit at 209-558-2020.