



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2015

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR THEFT INVESTIGATION TURNED OVER TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has turned over its investigation into the alleged thefts from estates by Public Administrator employees to the California Department of Justice and the California Attorney General's Office.

Earlier this year, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office opened an internal affairs investigation into the alleged thefts of property by employees of the Public Administrator's Office. These thefts had been occurring for several years, and involved three employees.

The internal affairs investigation has been completed, and the three employees believed to be involved are no longer employed by the County of Fresno.

The investigation has now been turned over to the California Department of Justice. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Attorney General's Office will be responsible for reviewing the information and making a determination as to what, if any, criminal prosecutions will ensue.

The Public Administrator's Office is temporarily being staffed with employees from the District Attorney's Office. District Attorney Smittcamp and the District Attorney staff remain committed to working with the County of Fresno to restructure and rebuild the Public Administrator's Office to ensure that this breach of public trust does not reoccur. In order to accomplish this, D.A. Smittcamp is asking the Board of Supervisors to increase staffing levels at the Public Administrator's Office, as well as adding an on-site supervisor to oversee the day-to-day operations.

District Attorney Smittcamp would like to personally thank the dedicated investigators from the Fresno County District Attorney's Office who worked tirelessly to expose this malfeasance and bring it to an end.

Please contact Administrative Secretary Geri Benavides or ADA Steve Wright for more information.

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