



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

1/31/17

**FARMERSVILLE WOMAN SENTENCED FOR WELFARE FRAUD AND
AUTO THEFT**

Yesterday in Department 4 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Brett Aldredge sentenced Jaime Lee, age 40, of Farmersville, to four years and eight months in jail and financial restitution for welfare fraud, perjury, auto theft, and petty theft.

On July 27, 2016, Lee was found guilty of one felony count of aid by misrepresentation (welfare fraud) and twelve counts of felony perjury. During the time period of 2011 through July 2014, Lee submitted documents under penalty of perjury to obtain aid from the CalWorks and CalFresh programs by failing to report that her minor child did not reside in her household. Lee's misrepresentations resulted in her obtaining more than \$18,000.00 in aid to which she was not entitled.

On March 8, 2016, while on bail for the welfare case, Lee was caught stealing a quad vehicle in Lindcove that was equipped with a GPS tracking device utilized by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations. She was subsequently stopped by law enforcement with the vehicle in her possession. On October 18, 2016, Lee was caught stealing \$150 worth of pomegranates from a Visalia orchard. On November 30, 2016, Lee pleaded no contest to one felony count of auto theft and one misdemeanor count of petty theft. She also admitted the special allegation that she was out on bail during the auto theft.

The welfare fraud case was prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Rodney Blaco of the Financial Crimes Division and investigated by Adam Gonzalez of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations – Welfare Fraud Division. The auto theft was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Candice Moore of the Rural Crimes Division and investigated by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations and the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

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