



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 2, 2004

Re: **Debbie Sather**

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Debbie Sather, of Modesto, was convicted of Embezzlement of County funds, a felony. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case.

In the month of September of 2003, the defendant, who was employed by Stanislaus County as an Account Clerk III within the Clerk Recorders office, embezzled over \$10,000.00 in cash and checks. The defendant was one of the people responsible in the Recorders office for completing a balance worksheet, and transporting the receipts for deposit. Five separate deposits from September 2003 never made it to the bank. In November of 2003, the Accounting Supervisor was unable to balance the month of September, and discovered the missing deposits. When questioned, the defendant was unable to come up with the deposit receipts. The following day, she confessed to what she had done. Approximately \$5,000.00 in checks were recovered from the defendant's car by the Modesto Police Department, however the remaining monies in cash, the defendant spent gambling at two local casinos.

Ms. Rees had declined to offer any plea bargains to the defendant, citing a violation of public trust, and the significant amount of funds that were embezzled from the County. The defendant chose to plead "No Contest" directly to the Court. Judge Nancy Ashley sentenced the defendant to 120 days in county jail and 3 years of formal felony probation, relying on the defendant's lack of criminal history, remorse shown, and complete restitution having been paid.