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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 8/12/08
Re: The People v. Feleni F. Leota,
Case No. 1234518

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Feleni F. Leota, age 32, of Modesto, pled no contest to a felony charge of Welfare Fraud on August 11, 2008. The case was investigated by Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Special Investigative Unit Investigator Clara Juarez. The case was prosecuted for the People by Deputy District Attorney Colleen Rhodes.

Ms. Leota was charged with Welfare Fraud as a result of her failure to reveal on her application for Cash Aid and Food Stamp benefits that she was employed while she was receiving cash and food stamp benefits. Ms. Leota was employed at two different businesses during the period of her fraud. She made over \$19,000 in income while she was receiving aid, but reported that she had received no income during the relevant period.

The Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Ms. Leota to 240 hours of community service and three years of felony probation in the Welfare Fraud case. Ms. Leota will also be required to pay restitution, fines and fees.