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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: April 14, 2003

Re: Felony conviction for welfare fraud

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Modesto, California – STANISLAUS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES C. BRAZELTON announced today that Anita Garcia, a 12 year employee of the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, has been convicted of welfare fraud after illegally receiving \$23,562.00 in welfare benefits.

On July 7, 2002, the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, Special Investigations Unit received a fraud referral from the then District Attorney Family Support Division of Stanislaus County (now Department of Child Support Services) . After a thorough investigation the case was referred to the District Attorney's Welfare Fraud unit and Garcia was charged with receiving aid for her grandson, while failing to report that his father also resided in the home. The period of fraud spanned more than six years resulting in Ms. Garcia receiving over payments totaling \$23, 562.00. Her employment with CSA ended following the investigation. On April 9, 2003, Garcia, pleaded guilty to felony welfare fraud.

Garcia was sentenced to serve sixty days in the county jail and put on three years of formal probation. The entire \$23,562.00 was repaid prior to her conviction.

Community Services Agency Director Ken Patterson acknowledged that CSA has a great staff that provides outstanding service to the community. However, Patterson indicated, if an employee chooses to breach the public trust, CSA holds that person accountable and they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.