



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp  
District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 12, 2020

## **Christina Alvarado Sentenced to Five Years in State Prison for Stealing Over Five Million Dollars from Elderly Victim**

Today, November 12, 2020, Fresno County Superior Court Judge Alvin Harrell sentenced Christina Alvarado, age 50 of Farmersville, to five (5) years in state prison and ordered her to pay back the nearly 5.6 million dollars she stole from an elderly victim over the course of several years. Alvarado's sentence comes after her September 30, 2020 guilty plea to felony violations of Penal Code sections 368(d) (theft from elder or dependent adult) and 530.5(a) (identity theft). Alvarado also admitted to an enhancement alleged pursuant to Penal Code section 186.11(a)(2) (aggravated white-collar crime/loss of \$500,000 or more).

The case came to the attention of the Fresno County District Attorney's Office in 2017 following a report of suspected financial elder abuse from Chase Bank. Specifically, the bank flagged a series of high dollar transfers from the victim to Alvarado. Following the report of the suspected financial abuse, the Fresno County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations opened a complex financial fraud case that ultimately revealed that Alvarado, after befriending the victim, obtained access to the victim's financial accounts and was able to steal over five (5) million dollars by committing more than one hundred and twenty (120) fraudulent check, ATM and bank transactions.

The District Attorney's investigation was led by DA Investigators Roy Rodriguez, Teri Terry and Jarrod Amey. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Douglas DiCicco of the District Attorney's Major Fraud Unit. The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would also like to acknowledge the Public Guardian's Office for their assistance, with a special thanks to Joshua Cochron. Without the tireless efforts of all involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case, a conviction would not have been possible.

The media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with any inquiries.

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[Alvarado, Christina; 2018ID24898]