



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Redding Man Convicted by Jury in Felony In Home Support Services
Fraud Case

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Today, a nine-woman, three-man jury convicted John Anthony Luerra of grand theft and presenting a false claim to the State of California. Both charges are felonies. The trial began June 26, 2012 before Honorable Judge Bradley Boeckman, and concluded after closing arguments this morning and approximately an hour of deliberation.

The charges stem from timecards the defendant submitted to the Department of Social Services and payments the defendant received from the In Home Support Services (IHSS) program as a provider for his son. The defendant's son was seriously injured in 2002 and the defendant became his care provider. The defendant was paid for In Home Support Services tasks and for 24 hour protective supervision, the highest level of care awarded from the Medi-Cal funded program. As an IHSS provider, the defendant agreed to provide 24 hour supervision for his son so that he could remain safely in the home as an alternative to an out-of-home care facility. The defendant claimed his son was a danger to himself and others if outside of the home and unsupervised. However, the defendant was obligated to inform social workers of any change or improvement in his son's condition that would require less care.

From January 2006 to September 2009, the defendant collected \$71,469.28 from the State of California. During the same time period, the defendant failed to report that his son's condition had improved dramatically. The

defendant's son began working at a local restaurant and a department store, he attended college at Shasta College, and he obtained a valid California driver's license. The fraud was discovered when a family member reported that the defendant was not providing services for his son and his son was driving, working and going to school unassisted and unsupervised. The Department of Social Services calculated an overpayment of \$57,203.56 after an investigation was completed. The jury heard five days of testimony from Shasta County Department of Social Services social workers, state employees, employers of the defendant's son, and a District Attorney Bureau of Investigations fraud investigator.

The Defendant faces three years, eight months in county jail for the charges. He will be sentenced August 17, 2012. The case was investigated by Joe Hendrix of the Shasta County District Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Patricia Van Ert.
