



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SHASTA

**Stephen S. Carlton**  
*District Attorney*

**Jury Convicts Woman of Single Count of  
Grand Theft of Public Housing Funds**

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September 26, 2014  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Launa Lea Rhoades, 47, was convicted by jury of a single count of grand theft of public housing funds, following a three day jury trial. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as the Section 8 program, is operated locally by the Shasta County Housing Authority, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rhoades received \$20,030.00 in public housing rental assistance during the time frame of October 1, 2006 to July 31, 2010. Rhoades attended a local briefing by local housing authority employees wherein she learned of the restrictions for participating in the program. Rhoades also received and signed several documents outlining the restrictions. One such restriction disallows a tenant from renting from relatives without prior approval of the housing authority. Other restrictions include reporting all household income and all persons moving into or out of the home. In the instant case, Rhoades submitted a tenancy contract for a property owned by her elderly grandmother. Rhoades never informed the housing authority of the relationship and signed several documents explaining the prohibition. Rhoades signed yearly recertifications indicating she was not a relative of her landlord. The fraud was discovered when local housing authority officials could not get in contact with Rhoades and instead contacted her landlord. They then learned the landlord was her grandmother. During the investigation, authorities also learned Rhoades failed to report a \$15,000 inheritance during the timeframe she was receiving rental assistance.

Rhoades will be sentenced on November 7, 2014 by the Honorable Judge Stephen H. Baker of the Shasta County Superior Court. Rhoades faces a maximum possible sentence of three years state prison, to be served in the local county jail, pursuant to Penal Code section 1170(h).

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Patricia Van Ert. The case was investigated by Paul Richard and Eric Huhtala of the Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.