



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

1/17/19

TWENTY THREE ARRESTED FOR WELFARE FRAUD

Earlier this week, criminal investigators from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations served 23 felony arrest warrants on several suspects for allegedly committing welfare fraud in Tulare County.

The following individuals were arrested and either cited or booked into the Tulare County Sheriff's Pre-Trial Facility:

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| -Chris McCarthy, 50, of Porterville | -Michelle Davila, 26, of Tulare |
| -Orlando Orozco, 38, of Porterville | -Joel Espinoza, 32, of Visalia |
| -Ines Pompa, 41, of Earlimart | -Ashley Delgadillo, 29, of Dinuba |
| -Patricia McCarthy, 43, of Porterville | -Benancio Orrostieta, 31, of Dinuba |
| -Cindy Sandez, 33, of Lindsay | -Gerald Rosser, 30, of Visalia |
| -Joyce Bradberry, 32, of Porterville | -Daniela Lopez, 29, of Tulare |
| -Yesenia Sanchez, 35, of Fresno | -Nancy Martinez, 29, of Visalia |
| -Ja See, 32, of Visalia | -Jade Blackwell, 27, of Visalia |
| -Claudia Orosco, 25, of Dinuba | -Shanice Finley, 30, of Tulare |
| -Arturo Romo, 27, of Dinuba | -Aaron Ford, 46, of Visalia |
| -Cassandra Brace, 52, of Visalia | -Donna Roderick, 48, of Visalia |
| -Lupita Espinoza, 33, of Porterville | |

The total amount of alleged fraud in all these cases was \$378,163.

In 2018, the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations identified \$989,685 in fraudulent benefits, resulting in felony criminal charges being filed on 85 cases. The fraudulent activity in these cases included activities such as failing to report income, failing to report changes in household composition, and the trafficking of EBT benefits for financial gain. It is a felony for an individual to make a false statement or misrepresentation of material facts in order to obtain over \$950 of aid they are not entitled to receive. The District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations will continue to diligently investigate all suspected fraud committed against public assistance programs here in Tulare County. If the public has further information related to suspected fraud, contact our office at (559) 636-5410.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*