



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
C O U N T Y O F K E R N

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JAMES SIMSON
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 16, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Deputy DA Chris Dominguez
661-868-2317

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in an elder abuse case this week. On April 15, 2019, Donna Crick pled no contest to financial elder abuse by a non-caretaker and admitted the enhancement of theft resulting in a loss of greater than \$100,000. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Chris Dominguez.

Crick had befriended the elderly victim in 2013 and from 2013 to 2016 cashed 164 personal checks from the victim's checking accounts totaling over \$172,000. In May 2016 Crick diverted the victim's annuity payment of over \$36,000 into her bank account. Once Crick had drained the life savings from the victim's bank accounts, Crick convinced the victim to make Crick the trustee and beneficiary of the victim's living trust, his home, his annuity, and his life insurance. Crick also obtained Power of Attorney over healthcare.

The victim was diagnosed with severe dementia in 2016 and a conservator was put in place following investigation by the Adult Protective Unit of the Kern County Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Sentencing is set for May 13, 2019 in Kern County Superior Court, and Crick faces a sentence of five years in State Prison.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated: "Elder abuse is a significant and growing problem in Kern County and all of California. The District Attorney's Office and law enforcement are committed to bring to justice those who abuse vulnerable elder persons, whether it be physical or financial abuse."