



NEWS RELEASE

GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

For Immediate Release

Approved By: JLM *JLM*

Contact: Ernesto Acosta
Senior Deputy District Attorney

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Telephone: (805) 662-1702

Release No. 13-055

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Keri Atwood (DOB 09/24/1984), of Santa Paula, was sentenced to 36 months probation, 150 days in county jail, and restitution in the amount of \$18,319. Michael Atwood (DOB 08/28/1976), also of Santa Paula, was sentenced to 36 months probation and 60 days in county jail. On August 14, 2013, Keri Atwood entered guilty pleas to four counts of workers' compensation insurance fraud. Michael Atwood entered a guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to commit workers' compensation fraud. This case was investigated by investigators from the Valencia office of the California Department of Insurance.

Defendant Keri Atwood, a civilian employee of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, reported to her supervisors that she sustained an injury to her left ankle. According to Keri Atwood, the injury occurred when another employee accidentally hit the back of her foot with a mail cart. She was placed on Temporary Totally Disabled (TTD) status. Over the next several months, Atwood remained on TTD and received over \$29,000 in disability pay.

She used crutches or a wheelchair to get to her medical appointments. After her medical appointments, she was seen walking freely without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair. She was also observed engaging in a number of physical activities that she told her treating her physicians she could not perform. Michael Atwood drove Keri Atwood to her doctors' visits and failed to disclose her true physical condition. At the time of the sentencing, Keri Atwood paid restitution to the County of Ventura.

###