



# ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Former Bookkeeper Convicted of Grand Theft and Forgery**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Tara Elaine Nykoluk (DOB 12/19/75), of Simi Valley, was convicted on three felony counts of embezzlement and forgery. The jury also found true a special allegation that Nykoluk’s crimes involved a theft of more than \$100,000. This case was jointly investigated by the Simi Valley Police Department and the District Attorney’s Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit.

From 2006 through 2015, Nykoluk worked as a part-time bookkeeper for T&M Plumbing (T&M), a small plumbing company based in Van Nuys. In 2015, the company owner fired Nykoluk after discovering she used a company debit card to make unauthorized personal purchases. A subsequent audit revealed that throughout her eight-year employment with T&M, Nykoluk embezzled approximately \$348,000 on more than 1,500 occasions by means of unauthorized company debit card payments and checks. Nykoluk used the stolen funds to pay for vacations, meals at restaurants, and ordinary consumer goods and services.

Nykoluk remains out of custody on bond pending her sentencing hearing scheduled for May 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in courtroom 47 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Nykoluk faces a maximum sentence of 4 years and 4 months in state prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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