



**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Charles Ruben (DOB 9/13/1951), formerly of Simi Valley, pled guilty to a felony violation of Insurance Code section 1871.4(a)(1)—making a fraudulent statement of a material fact for the purpose of obtaining workers' compensation benefits.

Between May 11, 2016, and November 23, 2016, Ruben was placed off work for an injury sustained while employed at an electric gate company in Simi Valley. During that time, he collected disability payments that totaled \$34,981.33 and systematically failed to report that he earned \$48,686.20 while working as a self-employed contractor.

Sentencing for Ruben is scheduled June 7, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. He faces a maximum of five years in jail. At the time he entered his plea, Ruben provided a check to the victim, State Compensation Insurance Fund, for the full amount of restitution due in this case for \$41,326.45.

Workers' compensation insurance fraud is not a victimless crime. Fraudulent claims increase the rates for other businesses. Our office will vigorously prosecute employees who make fraudulent claims, as well as unscrupulous business owners who attempt to take unfair advantage over honest competitors by failing to provide insurance coverage for their employees.

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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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