



GREGORY D. TOTTE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Woodland Hills Man Sentenced to Prison for Auto Insurance Fraud

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Raymond Merkley (DOB 10/22/78), of Woodland Hills, was sentenced to two years in prison by Judge Bruce Young. In March 2019, Merkley pled guilty to presenting a fraudulent auto insurance claim and also admitted previously sustaining two prior convictions where prison sentences were imposed.

In November 2016, while illegally off-roading in Hungry Valley State Park, Merkley's truck sustained significant damage. Afterwards, Merkley repeatedly lied to his insurance carrier about when and how these off-roading damages actually occurred. Prior to being sentenced today, Merkley paid full restitution in the amount of \$3,821 to the insurance carrier he defrauded. At the sentencing hearing, Merkley requested a stay of his prison sentence which was denied by the court. Merkley was then immediately remanded into the custody of the Ventura County Sheriff to begin serving his prison sentence.

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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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