



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.DA.VenturaCounty.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: SW
Date: February 20, 2026
Release No.: 26-027

Bookkeeper Sentenced for Embezzling More Than \$550,000 From Employer

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Ida Veronica Hernandez (DOB 06/27/80) was sentenced to four years, four months in state prison for an extensive embezzlement scheme committed while she was employed as a bookkeeper for a Thousand Oaks medical practice. Hernandez previously pled guilty on January 21, 2026, to seven felony counts of grand theft and one felony count of filing a false or forged document. She also admitted a special allegation that the losses exceeded \$100,000.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Howard Wise, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit, prosecuted the case.

"I wish trusted employees that steal understood the devastation they leave behind," Mr. Wise said. "It's not just financial. It's the mental pain caused by disappointment and the frustration of having to unravel the records for months and sometimes years."

Between 2020 and 2021, Hernandez was entrusted with access to company bank accounts and financial records in her role as office manager and bookkeeper. Instead of using that access for legitimate business purposes, Hernandez transferred large sums of the business's money into bank accounts controlled by Hernandez and her relatives. Investigators determined that Hernandez used multiple aliases. Along with other schemes, Hernandez directed the victim's payroll company to pay Hernandez's family and friends. Hernandez stole at least \$556,000 from the medical business.

The investigation showed that Hernandez also committed identity theft against a co-worker and attempted to deflect attention from herself by falsely implicating a co-worker in her financial crimes. Hernandez abruptly quit her position once the financial irregularities began to surface.

By the time the case was fully investigated by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Major Fraud Unit and filed in Ventura County, Hernandez had fled the area. She allegedly committed similar thefts in Orange County, resulting in a warrant being issued for her arrest. She is also accused of additional financial crimes in Plano, Texas. Hernandez subsequently fled Texas and was located by investigators as she traveled across the country.

Along with her prison sentence, Hernandez was also ordered to pay restitution to the victim in the amount of \$560,000.

Case: 2024025426

Defendant Information:

Ida Veronica Hernandez (DOB 06/27/80)

Charges pled guilty to:

- (7 counts) PC 487(a) – Grand theft
- PC 115(a) – Filing a false or forged document

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 186.11(a)(1) – Excessive loss over \$100,000

