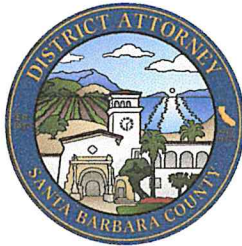


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 03-467

RELEASE NUMBER

March 16, 2018

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Justin Greene, Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Re: *People vs. Jesika Manchester Kuhl; Case No. 18CR00208*

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Jesika Manchester Kuhl, 29 years old, of Santa Barbara pled to one count of Offering False Evidence, in violation of Penal Code section 132, a felony.

On February 22, 2017, Kuhl pled to one count of Welfare Fraud, in violation of Welfare and Institutions Code section 10980(g)(1), a misdemeanor. The evidence in this case established that Kuhl had been selling food stamp benefits for cash. She was then placed on probation and required to perform fifty hours of community work service at a local non-profit agency, among other terms and conditions.

On August 23, 2017, Kuhl presented a letter to a Santa Barbara Superior Court judge which purported that she fulfilled her entire community service obligation.

Subsequent investigation by the Santa Barbara Welfare Fraud Unit determined that the letter was forged, and that Kuhl had only performed approximately one third of the hours of work at the non-profit agency.

District Attorney Dudley stated, "Whenever feasible, the District Attorney's Office will criminally prosecute anyone who presents false evidence or testimony to the Court." This case was investigated by Welfare Fraud Investigator Kristina Rauchhaus and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Justin Greene.

Ms. Kuhl will be sentenced on April 18, 2018 when she will be placed on probation for three years, ordered to serve 90 days in the Santa Barbara County Jail, and will be required to complete her outstanding community service obligation.
