

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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DA 05-105

RELEASE NUMBER

May 17, 2012

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

May 17, 2012

*People v. Chester Adam Taylor, Chester Lee Taylor*

Today, May 17, 2012, District Attorney Joyce Dudley announced that pleas were entered by Chester Adam Taylor and Chester Lee Taylor in the criminal case involving Montecito Motors, Inc. Chester Adam Taylor pled no-contest to 24 felony charges and Chester Lee Taylor pled no-contest to 22 felony charges. The charges included conspiracy, grand theft, financial elder abuse, and tax evasion. The father and son also admitted a special allegation that the offenses were related felonies, a material element of which was fraud or embezzlement and the loss sustained by the victims was over \$500,000.

As part of the plea agreement Chester Adam Taylor will be sentenced to 11 years in state prison and Chester Lee Taylor will be sentenced to 13 years in state prison. The pair was taken into custody at the conclusion of the hearing. Final sentencing and ordering of restitution, expected to be in the millions, will be heard on June 21, 2012.

The 46 no-contest pleas entered today included pleas of either grand theft or financial elder abuse for each of the 27 victims named in the complaint.

The pleas were a culmination of a year and a half long investigation into the used auto dealership Montecito Motors, Inc. Investigators from the Santa Barbara Police Department, Franchise Tax Board, Board of Equalization, and the District Attorney's Office took part in the investigation.

Also pleading guilty at the hearing were Jennifer Taylor and Sarah Taylor-Swing, who were charged in the initial complaint with several felony tax evasion charges. Both plead guilty to amended charges of misdemeanor tax evasion and were ordered to pay restitution to the Franchise Tax Board along with a penalty assessment, interest, and a fine.

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