



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trio Charged with Financial Elder Abuse in Amounts Exceeding \$700,000

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against Gina Abercrombie (48, of Pleasanton), Justin Teel (48, of Pleasanton) and Beverly Rutherford (81, of Arizona) for the financial abuse and identity theft of an elderly man.

It is alleged that from February 9, 2017, through January 31, 2022, the defendants committed financial elder abuse and fraud against the stepfather of the Abercrombie. While Abercrombie was entrusted with the management of the business owned by her stepfather as well as his personal finances, it is estimated that over \$700,000 was stolen. Together, with her fiancé, Justin Teel, it is alleged that they participated in applying for business loans pretending to be Abercrombie's stepfather. It is further alleged that from February 9, 2017, through March 24, 2020, Beverly Rutherford, while acting as the caretaker of the victim, worked with both Abercrombie and Teel to isolate and influence the victim which contributed to the theft from the victim and his estate.

In has been alleged in a FIRST AMENDED FELONY COMPLAINT that Gina Abercrombie committed the following offenses:

- One (1) Count of THEFT FROM ELDER OR DEPENDENT ADULT BY A CARETAKER [Penal Code §368(e)]
- Enhancement of SPECIAL ALLEGATION – AGGRAVATED WHITE-COLLAR CRIME [Penal Code §186.11(a)(1)]
- Two (2) Counts of OBTAINING MONEY, LABOR, OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES [Penal Code §532a]

In has been alleged in a FIRST AMENDED FELONY COMPLAINT that Justin Teel committed the following offenses:

- One (1) Count of THEFT FROM ELDER OR DEPENDENT ADULT BY A CARETAKER [Penal Code §368(e)]
- Enhancement of SPECIAL ALLEGATION – AGGRAVATED WHITE-COLLAR CRIME [Penal Code §186.11(a)(1)]
- Two (2) Counts of OBTAINING MONEY, LABOR, OR PROPERTY BY FALSE PRETENSES [Penal Code §532a]

In has been alleged in a FIRST AMENDED FELONY COMPLAINT that Beverly Rutherford committed the following offense:

- One (1) Count of THEFT FROM ELDER OR DEPENDENT ADULT BY A CARETAKER [Penal Code §368(e)]

If convicted of all charges and allegations, Gina Abercrombie, and Justin Teel face over five years in custody and Beverly Rutherford faces 3 years in custody.

Abercrombie and Teel were arrested on February 22, 2023, in Pleasanton, CA and booked into the Alameda County Santa Rita Jail. Thereafter, they were cited by the Fresno County Jail and given a date to appear for their arraignment. The arraignment for the defendants is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 8:30 AM in Department 32 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

[23-3641]