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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** March 8, 2012      **Contact:** Michael J. Cabral, Assistant Chief  
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**Calistoga Woman Sentenced For Embezzlement and Elder Abuse**

(Woodland, CA) – March 8, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that fifty-one year old Denise Ann Conophy of Calistoga was sentenced today to sixteen months in prison for embezzlement, elder abuse and tax evasion by the Honorable Judge Janet Gaard. The court also ordered the transfer of over \$300,000 of money and property, seized from Conophy, to the victim as payment of restitution.

The victim hired Conophy to handle her bookkeeping and other financial affairs relating to a business that the victim operated in St. Helena. Over the course of her seven years of employment Conophy transferred the victim's assets to various accounts and used them to pay for her personal bills as well as to start an internet business. The victim's family members discovered the theft when the victim was hospitalized and they found that the victim's life's savings had been depleted. During the investigation the State of California Franchise Tax Board determined that the defendant had failed to file a state income tax return during an eight year period and had failed to report the stolen funds as income.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated that "due to the efforts of the Woodland Police Department, the California Franchise Tax Board and the District Attorney's Life and Annuity Fraud Investigative Unit we have recovered over \$300,000 in direct victim restitution for an elderly victim of our community. It is a significant accomplishment when we can recover and return a lifetime worth of savings to an elderly victim."

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