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District Attorney

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Mother and Son Sentenced for Conspiracy and Identity Theft

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Samir Valdenegro (DOB 01/12/01) and Theresa Valdenegro (DOB 01/30/76), both from Chile and suspected members of a South American Theft Group, were sentenced today for their respective role in conspiring to commit identity theft.

Samir Valdenegro and Theresa Valdenegro pled guilty on March 25, 2022 to conspiracy to commit identity theft and four counts of identity theft. The charges stemmed from the theft of the victim's purse from her shopping cart in Camarillo on January 8, 2022 and the subsequent use of the victim's credit cards at BestBuy in Oxnard and BestBuy in Thousand Oaks. An investigation by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit led law enforcement to a Los Angeles hotel where the Valdenegros were arrested. Inside the Valdenegros' hotel room detectives found gift cards, purses and other property believed to be stolen. Additionally, passports and paperwork bearing the Valdenegros' names were found, as well as materials to manufacture fraudulent identifications.

Both Valdenegros pled guilty to the court on all charges and received 180 days in the Ventura County Jail and 24 months formal probation. Senior Deputy District Attorney Brandon Ross urged the court to impose two years incarceration for their crimes.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.