




GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Oxnard Man Sentenced for Participating in a Sweepstakes Scam

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that on July 9, 2020, Dennis Dean Varadin (DOB 06/07/54), of Oxnard, was sentenced to 18 months in jail, immediately followed by 38 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$133,766.88 to victims of his crimes. Varadin previously pled guilty on March 4, 2020, to multiple counts of felony grand theft, receiving stolen property, and money laundering.

From 2017 through September 2019, Varadin fraudulently received approximately \$170,000 from 10 elderly victims who were falsely led to believe they won a sweepstakes contest. During this scheme, victims were contacted by phone multiple times by Varadin's representatives and in some instances by Varadin himself. Victims were repeatedly defrauded by callers falsely claiming they could get their money back "for a fee" by wiring funds or mailing checks directly to Varadin or his elderly mother.

This case was prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit and jointly investigated by the Oxnard Police Department, Ventura County Adult Protective Services, and the Southern California High Tech Task Force. During this investigation, the Oxnard Police Department seized \$44,089 from Varadin which will be used to pay a portion of the \$133,766.88 owed in victim restitution.

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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 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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