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NEWS RELEASE



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Operations Manager for Clinical Trial Business Arraigned on Embezzlement Charges

Case #: 2022028585

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko has announced charges against a Camarillo man accused of embezzling from a Ventura business where he worked as an operations manager.

Gabriel Garcia (DOB 12/29/69), of Camarillo, is charged with grand theft, fraud and 19 counts of forgery. He pled not guilty at today's arraignment.

The defendant worked for 14 years as the operations manager at Coastal Metabolic Research Centre (CMRC), a medical facility in Ventura that runs clinical drug trials. The business discovered Garcia was embezzling from the company by issuing CMRC checks made payable to fake patients and providers and depositing them into his personal accounts. He's also accused of issuing company checks to CMRC supplies vendors and depositing those into his accounts. He's accused of embezzling more than \$447,000 in more than 1,120 fraudulent check transactions.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Marc Leventhal, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Fraud and Technology Crimes Unit.

If convicted on all counts, Garcia is facing up to 15 years 8 months in state prison. His next court appearance, an Early Disposition Conference, is scheduled for January 13, 2023, in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Defendant Information:

Gabriel Garcia
Camarillo

Charges Filed:

- PC 487(a) (Grand Theft)
- PC 186.11(a) (Fraud Involving Theft of More Than \$100,000)
- 19 counts - PC 470(a) (Forgery)