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Mother and Son Sentenced in Embezzlement Scheme



Randi Smith



Dakota Smith

ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that RANDI SMITH, 53, of Amsterdam, NY, and DAKOTA SMITH, 23, of Saratoga Springs, NY, were each sentenced this week before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court for their respective involvement in an embezzlement scheme.

RANDI SMITH was sentenced to a sentence of 3 to 9 years in State Prison yesterday, November 19, 2018. SMITH was also ordered by the Court to pay approximately \$831,079.20 in restitution to the New York State Weatherization Directors Association.

Additionally, DAKOTA SMITH was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in State Prison this morning and was ordered to pay approximately \$248,705.82 in restitution to the New York State Weatherization Directors Association.

On September 24, 2018, SMITH pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony. Her son, DAKOTA SMITH, pleaded guilty to the same charges on September 25, 2018.

Between June 14, 2011 and May 4, 2018, RANDI SMITH, who was acting as the Chief Fiscal Officer of the New York State Weatherization Directors Association, wrote checks without authorization to herself and to cash using the association's Bank of America business checking account, totaling over \$800,000. To cover up the checks, SMITH created fake invoices and made them a part of the agency's business records.

Furthermore, between November 8, 2017 and May 1, 2018, DAKOTA SMITH wrote checks without authorization to himself, his construction business, and to his father's business, using the New York State Weatherization Directors Association's Bank of America business checking account, totaling over \$300,000. When SMITH'S bank inquired about the unusual deposit activity, he provided a forged contract between his construction company and the agency to justify the funds.

The defendants were brought to justice after a thorough investigation conducted by the New York State Police, with special assistance from their Financial Crimes Unit.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Griggs of the Financial Crimes Unit handled the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov .

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