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18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – A former office manager who embezzled more than \$150,000 from a small business in Cheney was sentenced Monday to five years of probation and ordered to make monthly restitution payments.

Victoria Vinciguerra-Johnson, 39 of Murdock, pleaded guilty in August to felony theft and computer crime. She diverted \$158,281.17 to herself while working for the Times-Sentinel newspaper in Cheney from 2014 to 2017.

District Court Judge Deborah Hernandez Mitchell ordered Vinciguerra-Johnson to make a minimum \$700 monthly payment while on probation with her first payment due January 1.

The judge also ordered Vinciguerra-Johnson to serve 60 days in jail as a condition of probation. Judge Hernandez Mitchell told Vinciguerra-Johnson that she could serve 43 months in prison if she did not follow the conditions of probation.

Vinciguerra-Johnson's mother, who also worked at the Times-Sentinel newspaper as the office manager, was sentenced last month for embezzling more than \$48,000 from the same business.

Diane Nieves, 60 of Cheney, was the office manager at the newspaper before her daughter took over the position. Nieves was convicted of diverting \$48,428.69 to herself.

Judge Hernandez Mitchell ordered Nieves to make monthly payments of \$390 to the newspaper for the next five years. Nieves could serve 30 months in prison if she violates probation.

The owners of the newspaper told the judge that the thefts by their former employees caused a financial strain on their business. They said their insurance covered only \$50,000 of the more than \$200,000 that was stolen from the business from 2010 to 2017.

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