

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, February 14, 2017

**Wichita, Kansas** – A Wichita woman convicted of befriending and defrauding a 90-year-old man has had her probation revoked and has been ordered to serve her prison sentence.

Laurie Fernandez, 40, was convicted by a Sedgwick County jury on June 1, 2016 of taking about \$18,000 in gifts, loans and payments for lawn services during a three-month period in 2015. She met the victim while going door-to-door offering landscaping services.

District Court Judge Bruce Brown granted Fernandez probation in July of 2016 pursuant to state guidelines and ordered her to pay restitution to the victim. Judge Brown revoked that probation at a hearing on February 2, 2017. Fernandez had tested positive for drugs, failed to pay restitution and absconded from supervision. Brown ordered Fernandez to serve the balance of her 13-month sentence in the Kansas Department of Corrections.

A co-defendant with Fernandez has pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced on March 14, 2017. Justin Velasquez pleaded guilty on January 30, 2017 to felony theft.

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