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Deming Escrow Company Owner Charged with Embezzlement

SANTA FE – The former owner of Mimbres Valley Escrow Services in Deming was arrested last week on criminal charges of embezzling nearly \$822,000 from 12 Luna County residents.

Anna Delgado, of Deming, has been charged with 11 counts of embezzlement for allegedly stealing money from her customers' escrow accounts established for real estate transactions in Luna County, according to a criminal complaint.

“This administration is committed to protecting New Mexico taxpayers and aggressively pursuing tax fraud,” said Demesia Padilla, Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. “Embezzlers who cheat hard-working citizens out of their money will not have a place in our state.”

A warrant was issued for Delgado's arrest on Thursday, March 5, 2015, and she has been taken into custody by the Deming Police Department. She was arraigned by Magistrate Judge Ray Baese, and bail was set at \$190,000. Delgado owned and operated Mimbres Valley Escrow Services, and was charged with eight counts of second-degree embezzlement and three counts of third-degree embezzlement.

“Multi-agency cooperation is critical in bringing charges against those who violate the law and breach the trust of their clients,” said Mike Unthank, Superintendent of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department. “We will continue to work with anyone to bring justice to those who operate fraudulent and unlawful businesses in New Mexico.”

A complaint against Mimbres Valley Escrow Services was filed in 2012 with the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Financial Institutions Division, which placed the company into receivership following the discovery of unsafe activity and violations of the Escrow Company Act. The Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department continued investigating the company and Delgado, and referred their findings to 6th District Attorney's Office and the Deming Police Department.

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The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department Financial Institutions Division licenses and regulates escrow companies in New Mexico. Consumers with concerns or complaints can call the Financial Institutions hotline at (505) 476-4692. The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department Tax Fraud Investigations Division investigates suspected tax fraud, both business and personal, and coordinates with local, state, and federal law enforcement. The 24-hour Tax Fraud Hotline is available for tips of suspected fraud at 1 (866) 457-6789.

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