

Española Woman Indicted For Stealing About \$80,000 From Jemez Physical Therapy In Los Alamos

SANTA FE – An Espanola woman has been indicted on felony tax evasion and embezzlement charges for stealing about \$80,000 from Jemez Physical Therapy in Los Alamos while she was employed there as an office manager.

A Santa Fe grand jury on Thursday returned indictments against Rebecca Serrano on four counts each of tax evasion and embezzlement charges stemming from a four-year scheme that involved stealing money from her employer's bank accounts.

"This case is about betrayal by a trusted employee," said Demesia Padilla, Secretary for the State Taxation and Revenue Department, on Monday "This case should also serve as reminder to all businesses that having effective checks and balances over their finances can stop individuals like Ms. Serrano before they could cause any harm."

Serrano embezzled funds utilizing fraudulent check schemes through the company bank accounts. From 2005 through 2008, Serrano is accused of stealing about \$80,000. She also failed to report her additional income and pay nearly \$9,000 in state incomes taxes. Serrano could face a maximum of 60 years in prison and \$60,000 in fines if convicted on all eight charges.

The investigation was conducted jointly by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division and the Los Alamos Police Department. To report tax fraud, individuals can call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.