



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson

Governor

Rick Homans

Cabinet Secretary

**For Immediate Release
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(505) 476-3454

Farmington Woman Pleads Guilty to Tax Evasion and Fraud

Farmington – Patricia Shelton, of Farmington, was sentenced Tuesday, June 23rd after she pleaded guilty to one count of tax fraud, a fourth degree felony. Eleventh Judicial District Judge Sandra Price sentenced Shelton to eighteen months of incarceration on the one count of tax fraud and ordered the sentence to run concurrently with the ten and one half years of incarceration she was sentenced to last week on related fraud and forgery charges. Additionally, Shelton was ordered to pay restitution and file true and correct tax returns.

Shelton was paroled from the Colorado Department of Corrections in Jefferson County and extradited to Farmington in May 2009 on a criminal complaint filed by the San Juan County Sheriff's office and the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office. Shelton was being held in Farmington on a one hundred million dollar cash only bond.

The criminal complaint on the tax fraud charges was originally filed in magistrate court in February 2009 and the criminal complaint for the fraud and forgery charges was filed in September 2006. However, due to an order of release filed in January 2007, Shelton was released to the State of Colorado to face criminal charges there.

The case was a result of an investigation by the San Juan County Sheriff's Office and the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division, and was prosecuted by the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's office in Farmington. The Undersheriff of San Juan County, Mark McCloskey, stated that the Sheriff's office is always pleased to work with other law enforcement agencies to achieve positive results.

To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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