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Roswell woman pleads guilty to embezzlement, tax evasion

A Roswell woman is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to forgery, embezzlement and tax evasion charges.

Patricia Moore pleaded guilty to the charges on December 20, 2019 under a plea agreement with prosecutors. Under the agreement, Moore could be sentenced to as much as three years in prison. The agreement also calls for Moore to pay restitution.

Moore pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement over \$20,000, one count of forgery over \$2,500 and three counts of attempting to evade or defeat tax. In exchange, prosecutors dropped 38 counts of forgery.

According to a criminal complaint filed against her in Chaves County Magistrate Court, Moore was accused of writing out checks to herself from her employer, Carson Ryan LLC, a law firm in Roswell, and then forging her employer's signature. Between October 2014 and July 2018 according to the complaint, Moore embezzled about \$280,000.

"The Taxation and Revenue Department's tax fraud investigators regularly collaborate with other state, federal and local law enforcement agencies. Those who commit white collar crimes will be held accountable for their actions," said Taxation and Revenue Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke.

Sentencing in the case has been scheduled for May 4.

The case was investigated by the Roswell Police Department and the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. It was prosecuted by the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Roswell.