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### **Roswell woman sentenced in embezzlement case**

A Roswell woman who pleaded guilty late last year to embezzlement, forgery and tax fraud has been ordered to serve two years in prison.

Patricia Moore, 55, was sentenced May 4 to nine years by 5th Judicial District Judge Jane Shuler Gray, but the judge suspended seven years of the sentence and ordered Moore to serve five years supervised probation upon her release.

Moore also was ordered to pay restitution and court fees.

Moore pleaded guilty on December 20, 2019 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office in Roswell.