



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUG. 31, 2015

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**DA'S OFFICE CHARGES WOMAN WITH GRAND THEFT FOR PAYMENTS SHE RECEIVED WHILE UNLAWFULLY ACTING AS AN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT**

**INDIO** – Today, Aug. 31, 2015, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office charged a Cathedral City woman with multiple counts of grand theft related to payments she received while unlawfully acting in the capacity of an immigration consultant.

Sara Arcelia Salcido, DOB: 2-5-76, has been charged with seven felony counts of grand theft, one misdemeanor count of grand theft, and one misdemeanor count of unlawfully receiving compensation while acting as an immigration consultant. If convicted as currently charged, Salcido faces a maximum of about seven years in custody.

Salcido was arraigned today, Aug. 31, 2015, at the Larson Justice Center in Indio where she entered not guilty pleas to all counts. She is scheduled to return for a felony settlement conference on Sept. 10, 2015. Superior Court Judge Dale Wells kept her bail at \$500,000 -- the amount requested by the DA's Office.

DA's investigators arrested Salcido on Aug. 27, 2015, at her Cathedral City home. Investigators served search warrants at that location as well as at her business: Immigration and Court Services of the Desert, 68-783 E. Palm Canyon Dr., Cathedral City.

The search warrants yielded numerous boxes of documents as well as computers, all of which are still undergoing forensic examination in this ongoing investigation. Anyone who believes they may have been victimized by Salcido can contact DA Investigator Matthew Remmers at (951) 955-2261.

In May 2015, after receiving a consumer complaint, the DA's Office began an investigation into reports that Salcido was conducting business illegally. It is believed these illegal activities have been going on for several years. Salcido is not licensed to practice law in California and the investigation revealed that she was reportedly giving legal advice and that she is not a registered immigration consultant. Based on evidence obtained during the investigation, it is believed Salcido has been taking payments for services she was not lawfully permitted to provide. Based on the evidence, the theft by false pretenses received by Salcido in this case may be in excess of \$500,000.

Under the California Business and Professions Code, people are permitted to serve as an immigration consultant allowing them to provide services such as obtaining and filling out documents – including U visas, translating answers for documents, and assisting in the filing of documents. Immigration consultants – who are not lawyers and cannot give legal advice -- have a variety of requirements they must follow which include registering with the California Secretary of State, passing a background check, and being properly bonded. For more information about immigration consultants, go to [https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/immigration\\_consultants](https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/immigration_consultants).

The case, INF1501474, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Bryan Boutwell of the DA's Consumer Protection Team.

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