



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**WOMAN ARRESTED BY DA'S INVESTIGATORS FOR GRAND THEFT  
WHILE ILLEGALLY POSING AS AN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT**

**INDIO** – Today, Aug. 27, 2015, District Attorney Mike Hestrin announced the arrest by DA's investigators of a Cathedral City woman on suspicion of grand theft related to payments she received while unlawfully acting in the capacity of an immigration consultant.

Sara Salcido, DOB: 2-5-76, was arrested shortly after 7 a.m. today, Aug. 27, 2015, at her Cathedral City home by DA's investigators who 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 DA's Office is expected to file criminal charges in the case.

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, translating answers for documents, and assistance in filing 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).

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. Thus far, the investigation has led to nine known victims and investigators expect that number could increase. Based on the evidence, the theft by false pretenses received by Salcido in this case may be in excess of \$500,000. Anyone who believes they may have been victimized by Salcido can contact DA Investigator Matthew Remmers at (951) 955-2261.

One of the services Salcido is accused of illegally providing involved people coming to her for assistance in obtaining documents called U visas. The U nonimmigrant status, or U visa, is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement and government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. More information about U visas can be found in English here: <http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status> and in Spanish here: <http://www.uscis.gov/es/programas-humanitarios/victimas-de-la-trata-de-personas-y-de-otros-crimenes/victimas-de-actos-criminales-estatus-u-de-no-inmigrante>

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