

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOHN T. SAVRNOCH**  
District Attorney



04-728

RELEASE NUMBER

April 5, 2024

RELEASE DATE

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**Re:    *People v. Lynda Gemberling, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 22CR06896***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that on April 3, 2024, a Santa Barbara jury found Lynda Gemberling guilty of two counts of Perjury and one count of Welfare Fraud, all felonies. The case was investigated by District Attorney Investigator Patrick Adams and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sean Brunton.

In 2019 and again in 2020, Ms. Gemberling applied with the Department of Social Services (DSS) for food stamps (CalFresh) and Cash Aid (CalWorks) programs, reporting that she had no income. In fact, Ms. Gemberling was receiving child support payments during this time but failed to report those payments as income, despite the applications clearly defining income as including child support. DSS became aware of the fraud after being contacted by the Department of Child Support Service (DCSS). Any time a person applies for aid with DSS, DSS sends a referral to DCSS to determine if the applicant is receiving child support. In this case, DCSS reported to DSS that Ms. Gemberling had been receiving child support payments.

After receiving notice from DCSS regarding the fraud, DSS sent a referral to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office which then opened an investigation into Ms. Gemberling, resulting in the filing of criminal charges in September 2022.

District Attorney John T. Savrnoch commented, "CalFresh and CalWorks are vital programs that California provides to those in need. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office is committed to investigating and prosecuting those who abuse the trust of the taxpayers in this state by exploiting government programs intended to help our state's most vulnerable."

Sentencing for Ms. Gemberling will take place on May 9, 2024, before the Honorable Pauline Maxwell, in Department 2 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court.

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