



NEWS RELEASE

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Susan Hinojosa Sentenced 8 Years in Prison for Kitchen Remodel Scam

Susan Marie Hinojosa was sentenced Friday to eight years in prison for theft and check fraud charges in connection with a kitchen remodeling business she operated with her husband.

Hinojosa (DOB 08/13/57) was convicted in November on 23 charges of theft and check fraud.

She and her husband, Herman Melvin Hinojosa, Jr., (DOB 06/24/44) were charged last year with 30 counts of theft, check fraud and theft from at-risk elder adults for taking funds for kitchen remodeling projects through their businesses Kitchens 4 Less and Kitchens 2 Go at 1015 E. 70th Avenue in Adams County. The charges involved 27 victims who lost more than \$140,000 in dealings with the Hinojosas from April 2012 and continued through November 20, 2013, when the Hinojosas filed for bankruptcy.

Susan Hinojosa was convicted on five counts of theft from an at-risk elder adult, 15 counts of felony theft, one count of felony check fraud, one count of misdemeanor theft and one count of misdemeanor check fraud. She was acquitted on one count of theft from an at-risk adult and one count of felony check fraud. Some of the counts in the original charges were dismissed before trial.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso said the Hinojosas required payment up front and then did little or no work. Deposits from customers were commingled with other funds and used for personal purposes. They took customers' money, promising dream kitchens and bathroom remodels that were never completed. In some cases, customers went without use of their kitchens and baths for months. Ultimately the customers had to pay other contractors to finish the jobs.

A number of victims spoke at the sentencing hearing, describing how they lived without kitchens for months, waiting for work to be completed.

Adams County District Judge Craig Welling called the Hinojosa's business a "criminal enterprise." He said the couple continued to entice customers to pay up front for kitchens they knew would never be completed. The judge heard argument about the amount of restitution and will issue an order later.

“This case demonstrates why it is so important for our office to have an Economic Crime Unit,” Cafasso said. “There are many other businesses out there preying on consumers and unfortunately, most of these consumers never receive justice. In this case, the judge saw the number of victims and the length of time this scam went on as aggravators. We are gratified that we have been able to achieve justice for the victims in this case.”

“This is one of the first major cases our office investigated and prosecuted through our newly formed Economic Crime Unit,” said District Attorney Dave Young. “Our unit discovered serious criminal violations at a time when other agencies had informed the victims of these crimes that these were bad business decisions that could only be remedied by pursuing a civil case. I’m very proud of our unit and the work of our prosecution team, and that we were able to achieve justice for the many victims of these crimes.”

Herman Hinojosa was bound over for trial on February 10 and is set for arraignment at 8:30 a.m. on March 28 in Division Q of Adams County District Court.

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