



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Sentenced to 90 days in Jail and Probation in Charity Mattress Scam

Genevieve Cruz was sentenced to 90 days in jail and four years of probation Monday in a \$1 million charity fraud case involving the sale of donated mattresses.

"This is yet another successful prosecution by our Economic Crime Unit," said District Attorney Dave Young. "I'm very proud of the accomplishments of our unit in investigating and prosecuting these complex crimes since it was established in 2013."

Cruz (DOB 09/01/57) had pleaded guilty to one count of charitable fraud-scheme to defraud (F5) and one count of theft (M1). She and Adam Shryock were charged in April 2015 with multiple counts of theft in the scheme. Shryock pleaded guilty and received the same sentence last week.

The two obtained Serta mattresses returned under Serta's warranty program under false pretenses and sold them, claiming that they were being donated to the Ecumenical Refugee and Immigration Services Inc. in Denver and distributed to refugees. Cruz served as executive director and donation coordinator for the charity. Instead, Cruz and Shryock sold most of the mattresses for profit at reduced prices from storage units in Adams County and in other states.

Cruz blamed her involvement on Shryock but Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso said that Cruz was the leader of the scheme.

"Her role cannot be downplayed," Cafasso said at the sentencing hearing. "She was in charge of this. She approached codefendant Adam Shryock to sell these mattresses. The crux of this case are the deception and the lies she told Serta. She assured them that these mattresses were used exclusively for refugees and that they would not be sold." Cafasso said Cruz concocted more elaborate lies after Serta became suspicious that their mattresses were being sold in Kansas and later again lied about her role when confronted by her employer and investigators. "She was leading this operation. She was in control," Cafasso said.

Adams County District Judge Katherine Delgado also ordered Cruz to perform 96 hours of community service. Cruz and Shryock also are ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution. Cruz will begin serving her jail sentence on June 27.