



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Sentenced to 15 Years for Stealing \$744,000 from her Employer

Alyssa Dawn Costa was sentenced to 15 years in prison Tuesday for stealing nearly \$750,000 from her employer.

Costa (DOB 08/17/80) paid herself \$744,813 in unapproved income while she was working for Metro Pavers Inc., in Adams County, where she handled payroll and accounting from 2012 to 2016. Costa was hired in August 2012 and began making fraudulent transfers and payments to herself a few months after being hired.

Costa pleaded guilty to one count of theft of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, a class 3 felony.

Michael Sasina, who took over the family business after his father's death, said Costa betrayed the trust of himself and employees, some of whom had worked there for more than 40 years. "She went to great lengths to cover her tracks," he said at the sentencing hearing. "She deliberately did this and methodically planned it. This is a pattern. She has done it before and she will do this again."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso told the judge that Costa has three previous felony convictions for similar conduct, including stealing from a former employer. "This defendant is a danger to the public," Cafasso said. "If she's out and she works, she will continue to steal from people."

Cafasso said Sasina thought Costa was a dedicated employee who never took a day off, even coming in from vacation to do payroll. In fact, Cafasso said, Costa made sure no one else knew how to handle payroll because she didn't want anyone to discover what she was doing. "As soon as she was promoted to payroll clerk, she started stealing," Cafasso said. "For four and a half years she stole from this company."

Although Costa was supposed to be making about \$35,000 per year, she paid herself \$102,400 in 2013, \$280,835 in 2014, \$302,072 in 2015 and \$283,057 in 2016, for a total of \$744,813.53 in unapproved income.

Adams County District Judge Tomee Crespín imposed a sentence of 15 years in prison and ordered her to pay \$863,241.29 in restitution, saying that Costa had been given chances at probation and community corrections but continued to reoffend. "This is your fourth felony conviction for crimes all similar in nature," she said. "You steal tremendous amount of money from people in the community, including your own family. You continue to place the community at risk because of your actions."

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