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LOCAL ATTORNEY SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ELDER ABUSE

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that local attorney, Robin Douglas Dakan, was sentenced to two years in state prison for his role in an elder abuse case against his wife, Linda. The sentence was imposed by Honorable Judge Paul Burdick.

The charges stem from an investigation by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and Adult Protective Services, who in April of 2016, made a home visit to the Dakan residence. They found the victim lying in her bed, emaciated and severely dehydrated, with her body fused to the bed sheets. She was completely bed-bound and was reliant upon the defendant to take care of her. She also disclosed that she had not been out of bed for two years. Linda was taken to the Dominican Hospital Emergency Room for treatment. The emergency room doctor, Dr. Marc Yellin, testified during the trial that this was the worst case of elder neglect that he had seen in his 30 years of practice.

During the trial, Assistant District Attorney Pamela Dunlap showed several photos of the victim to the jury. Many of the photos showed the victim's body covered with insects and feces, bed sores over her entire backside, and that her right arm fused to her chest. Through testimony, it was proven that the Dakan had forced the victim to urinate and defecate in the bed. Her hair had not been washed, nor had she been bathed, for two years.

At the sentencing, the defendant was in denial of his conduct and showed no remorse. In reply to Burdick's sentence, Dunlap said, "This was an extremely emotional case for a variety of reasons. The victim showed incredible strength and resolve throughout this entire case. We are pleased that justice was justly served and that she can now begin the healing process."