

[Type text]



Phil Wowak
Sheriff-Coroner



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: 12/13/13 at 4:00 p.m.

Location of Incident: Santa Cruz County Jail

Type of Incident: Inmate Release

Photo(s) Available: Yes ___ No x

Description of Incident:

Description of Incident: On October 11, 2013, Sheriff's Office personnel were sent a copy of court minutes by the Santa Cruz County Superior Court Clerk's office directing that Jorge Pallares was to be released from custody on his own recognizance. Mr. Pallares, who had been remanded into custody on May 7, 2013, had a hold placed on him by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to be turned over to them for a deportation hearing. On October 16, 2013, Mr. Pallares was turned over to ICE agents by Santa Cruz County Jail.

In reviewing the paperwork sent to the Sheriff's Office by the Court Clerk's office, it is clear that these court minutes were from Mr. Pallares' first arraignment hearing on May 2, 2013 where Mr. Pallares was released on his own recognizance. These were not the court minutes from the hearing on October 11, 2013, where he pled no contest to a felony violation of Penal Code section 288(a). This error was not caught until December 12, 2013, the set date by the Court for Mr. Pallares' sentencing. The Sheriff's Office took immediate steps to notify the Court, the DA's Office, the arresting agency and the victim's family.

For each defendant that appears in Court, the Court Clerk's office sends a report back to the jail detailing the outcome of the court proceedings for that day. These are referred to as the court minutes.

The Sheriff's Office and the Superior Court continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding this error and will take appropriate corrective action to ensure it does not happen again.

Press Release prepared by: Deputy Ryan Kennedy

Press Release Approved by: Lt. Steve Carney

Date/Time of Media Release: 12/13/13 at 4:00 p.m.