



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

10/18/17

**PORTERVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR
FINANCIAL ELDER ABUSE OF 90-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER**

Today in Department 3 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Nathan Leedy sentenced Brandon Birchfield, age 25 of Porterville, to serve two years state prison for financial elder abuse against his grandmother.

On September 19, 2017, Birchfield pleaded no contest to one misdemeanor count of financial elder abuse and one felony count of identity theft against his grandmother, who has since passed away. Birchfield also admitted that he violated his probation from a prior 2013 financial elder abuse conviction against the same victim, and a 2015 conviction for assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury against a different victim.

The crime occurred between August 1, 2016 and September 30, 2016 when Birchfield and two of his male friends moved in to live with his grandmother, knowing that she was suffering from dementia. Birchfield used his grandmother's debit card to make various purchases, including numerous online Pokemon Go app charges and incurring large overdraft charges.

"Elder abuse impacts over two-million American seniors each year. Abuse can be physical, financial, or neglect. If you suspect elder abuse, report it to Tulare County Adult Protective Services at 1-877-657-3092. Our seniors deserve better," said District Attorney Tim Ward.

The case was prosecuted by the Elder Abuse prosecutor, Senior Deputy District Attorney Kalina Laleva, of the Special Crimes Unit and investigated by Detective Gregory May of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

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