



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

3/5/19

PROLIFIC VISALIA IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON

Today in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden sentenced Jessica Murphy, age 27, to 12 years in state prison for financial and drug crimes.

On January 29, 2019, Murphy pleaded to 84 counts of identity theft with the special allegation of having been convicted of a prior identity theft, one count of mail theft, one count of possession of a controlled substance, and one count of possession for sales. Each count is a felony. Murphy possesses a prior strike conviction for first-degree burglary in 2018.

On November 10, 2018, officers from the Visalia Police Department responded to an abandoned car in an alley on Garden Street. During a search of the vehicle, officers discovered numerous pieces of personal identifying information meticulously organized in binders along with checks, vehicle registrations, cell phones, a smart tablet, various keys, and a mobile card reader. On November 20, 2018, officers performed an unrelated traffic stop on a car containing Murphy. In the car, officers discovered syringes, glass pipes, pills, and methamphetamine, along with additional personal identifying information.

During a subsequent police interview, Murphy explained to officers her history of being a “profiler.” Murphy stated she would receive stolen mail and other stolen personal identifying information, put the information in binders, and sell the profiles to other people to help support her drug addiction. In the course of the investigation, multiple Visalia Police Department detectives were able to contact 85 victims whose personal information was in Murphy’s possession.

“With many of our personal transactions happening online, we sometimes forget the importance of protecting physical, hard copy information. This case is an important reminder to watch our mail boxes and the personal information that we put into our garbage and recycling cans,” said District Attorney Tim Ward. “Identity theft is a growing crime that touches many people. I commend the Visalia Police Department and our Financial Crimes Division for their diligence in finding the victims in this case and bringing this individual to justice.”

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Paula Clark of the Financial Crimes Division and investigated by Detective Brian Young of the Visalia Police Department.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*