



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STOCKTON FUNERAL HOME OWNER SENTENCED FOR STEALING FROM ELDERLY CONSUMERS

STATE SEEKING TO REVOKE LICENSES

STOCKTON – A Stockton funeral home owner has been sentenced to six years and eight months in custody and community supervision after being convicted of five felonies and two misdemeanors. Reginald G. Thompson was convicted of theft from an elder, grand theft and petty theft.

Thompson, owner of the Thompson Memorial Chapel, was convicted in San Joaquin County Superior Court in February in a case that involved investigations by the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Cemetery and Funeral Bureau and the San Joaquin County District Attorney's office.

Investigations found Thompson took thousands of dollars intended for pre-arranged funeral and cemetery services from nearly a dozen elderly clients from the Stockton area and used the money for his own personal benefit. There could be additional victims, and anyone who has a pre-need funeral contract they purchased from Thompson should contact the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau.

“San Joaquin County will not tolerate elder financial abuse,” said Deputy District Attorney Sherri Adams. “We will vigorously prosecute people who steal from the elderly, and we thank the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau for working with us.”

In addition to Thompson's conviction, the Bureau is seeking to revoke all licenses associated with Thompson. California law allows the Bureau to take action against a licensee if he or she has been convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensee.

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“Our job is to protect the consumer,” said Bureau Chief Lisa Moore. “We urge anyone who has a problem with any of our licensees to immediately file a complaint with us so that we can investigate it.”

Consumers can check a license or file a complaint by calling the Department of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-952-5210 or visiting DCA’s web site at www.dca.ca.gov.

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The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau advocates consumer protection and licensee compliance through proactive education and enforcement of laws and regulations of the death care industry. We offer a [Consumer Guide to Cemetery and Funeral Purchases](#) to help consumers make informed decisions in a fair and ethical marketplace.