



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Luis Obispo County Hearing Aid Dispenser Taken Back Into Police Custody

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A licensed hearing aid dispenser who falsely claimed to be an audiologist and his wife were arrested by the Department of Consumer Affairs' Division of Investigation today, with the assistance of Atascadero Police, after the two failed to appear in court Monday on charges of insurance fraud and grand theft.

Aaron A. Marquis and his wife, Anja Marquis, were booked into the San Luis Obispo County jail after a judge increased their bail to \$1 million.

An order freezing the Marquises' assets was issued by the judge on October 10, 2013.

"By freezing their assets, we can assure the public they will no longer unlawfully take money from innocent consumers" said Division of Investigation Chief Michael Gomez.

Aaron Marquis is licensed by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board as a hearing aid dispenser. Marquis claimed to be an audiologist while his wife, Anja, worked as his office manager, billing insurance companies thousands of dollars for audiology tests performed by Marquis. Marquis also circulated business cards stating that he holds a Ph.D. in audiology, advertised he has a Ph.D., and that he could bill for both audiological services and hearing aids. DCA investigators determined Marquis does not have a Ph.D. in audiology and is not a licensed audiologist. In March 2013, both Aaron and Anja Marquis were charged with several counts of insurance fraud and grand theft.

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board will pursue license revocation.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.dca.ca.gov.

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board protects the health, safety, and welfare of the people of California by requiring adherence to laws and regulations designed to ensure the qualifications and competency of providers of speech-language pathology, audiology and hearing aid dispensing services.