`Merced Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

June 24, 2014

Sgt. Scott Skinner
Investigation Division
Office: (209) 385-4702

For Immediate Release

Date and Time: 06-23-14-1:00 pm

Location: MERCED POLICE DEPT.

Incident: EMBEZZELEMNT

Suspect: DESIREE MAUREEN LACOUNT (46)

Case Number: 14-27340

An investigation into embezzlement from a Doctor's office has led to the arrest of the office manager, Desiree Lacount, (46) of Atwater. She was arrested yesterday afternoon at the police station by Det. Adrian. Lacount was employed by Dr. Samberg from May 2010 until May 2014. Lacount was the office manager in charge of billing and payroll. One of her responsibilities was to deposit the daily checks and money paid by their patients. It was brought to the Doctors attention by another employee that Lacount was putting the cash from the register into her purse.

An internal investigation was conducted. The investigation showed and was confirmed by bank records that almost every time a deposit was being made by Lacount, only the checks would be deposited and no cash. Video surveillance from the bank shows Lacount making deposits, and again only checks and no cash were being deposited.

After completing his investigation Det. Adrian determined there was approximately fifty-two thousand dollars embezzled from the doctors' office. Det. Adrian scheduled an appointment for Lacount. Lacount showed up at the police station with her lawyer. After the case was discussed with the lawyer, Lacount invoked her rights. She was booked into the county jail for embezzlement and later that evening bailed out.

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If anyone has questions or information, they can contact Det. Allen Adrian at (209) 385-4731

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