

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358

Media Relations



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE June 15, 2007
TIME 1:30 PM**

Man Arrested for Embezzling Money from Paraplegic Teenagers

MODESTO, CA- Sheriff's Detectives arrested 44-year-old Randy Lee WEST of Riverbank on charges of embezzling almost \$20,000 from a paraplegic teenager. The victims, two teenagers, were involved in a car accident several years ago in where both of the parents were killed by a drunk driver. One of the boys became a paraplegic from the accident and the other received major long-term injuries. The boys received a settlement from the incident and moved in with their grandmother who took legal custody.

Sheriff's Detectives received a report in May of 2006 that WEST, who was the son-in-law to the grandmother, was embezzling money from the boy's settlement. After an investigation detectives arrested and booked WEST for the charges of grand theft, forgery, and unauthorized use of personal identifying information. During court proceedings, WEST agreed to pay restitution back to the boys and was told to return to court on a later date for sentencing. WEST failed to pay any amount of restitution and also failed to report to court. On June 11, 2007 a judge issued a bench warrant for WEST.

This morning Sheriff's Detectives went looking for WEST and arrested him on the warrant. Detectives found WEST at his job, National Family Trust in Modesto, hiding in the office closet. WEST's family owns the business. He was arrested and booked on grand theft charges.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Mason Mineni at (209) 525-7068. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.

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