



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **Local Attorney Pleads to Felony Fraud and Theft Charges**

A local attorney today plead no contest to charges of theft from an elderly couple and lying to another client after a joint investigation by the Butte County District Attorney's Office and the California State Bar.

Alfred W. Driscoll III, 65, Chico, was charged with Theft from an Elder and making a False Financial Statement, both felony charges. He appeared in court today before a visiting judge in the Butte County Superior Court. His plea was entered and sentencing was set for November 1, 2013.

The charges stem from complaints that Mr. Driscoll stole over \$80,000 from an elderly couple who had put their money in Driscoll's client trust account. He is also accused of causing another client to loan him money based on a false financial document. District Attorney Mike Ramsey said his office was notified of these cases by the California State Bar. Ramsey said the State Bar has filed disciplinary proceedings against Driscoll based on these cases and other matters.

The investigation found Mr. Driscoll agreed on October 15, 2008 to keep \$100,000.00 in his client trust account for the couple. The couple received some of that original amount back to pay taxes and other expenses, but the remaining \$87,514 was never returned. The couple was unaware of the theft until Driscoll sent a letter on August 28, 2012 admitting the money was gone and he would not be able to return it. Further investigation also revealed Driscoll had induced a separate client to loan him \$40,000 which Driscoll secured with stock shares in a business Driscoll owned. When Driscoll defaulted on the loan after paying only \$7,000, the client attempted to gain the value of the shares only to find out the security document given to him by Driscoll was worthless.

Ramsey said Driscoll has practiced law in the local area since 1974. The California State Bar ordered his law license inactive on March 11, 2013 due to their ongoing disciplinary proceedings. Ramsey said Driscoll faces over four years imprisonment in the Butte County Jail.