



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Camp Fire Fraudster Sentencing Delayed When He Fires Attorney

A former Butte County resident who was convicted last month of construction fraud, embezzlement, contracting without a license in a disaster zone, failing to appear in court, and filing false documents with the court was due to be sentenced today, but his sentencing continued today after he fired his attorney.

Kipp Ford, 40, formerly of Gridley and Chico, had previously been found guilty of all charges against him after a six-day trial and had been awaiting sentencing as an inmate in the Butte County Jail.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said at the beginning of his sentencing hearing today, Ford sought to fire his privately-retained attorney, Stephana Femino, claiming that a boyfriend of the attorney, who is also an inmate in the Butte County Jail had threatened him while both are in the jail. He also claimed attorney Femino was sharing confidential information with the boyfriend. The defense attorney denied Ford's claims.

The judge continued the case for one week to November 23, 2022 to allow Ford time to retain a new attorney. Ramsey said he expects the court to select a new sentencing date at that time. Ford remains in Butte County Jail where he is being held without bail.