



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**MICHAEL L. RAMSEY**  
District Attorney

**MARK MURPHY**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

**JASON WINES**  
Chief Investigator

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release  
July 19, 2023

## **Repeat Drunk Driver Reinstated on Probation After Violation**

A 63-year-old Chico woman who committed four separate driving under the influence offenses this past fall was reinstated back on probation today after a violation of that probation in February sent her to state prison this spring for a 90-day psychological evaluation.

**Gail Ann Hemmingsen, 64, of Chico**, had previously pleaded no contest to four separate DUI offenses and a misdemeanor offense of attempted criminal threats and was placed on probation on January 25, 2023, with strict conditions of no alcohol consumption and an order to wear a GPS ankle monitor that would continuously monitor her location and any alcohol consumption.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that shortly after Hemmingsen's ankle monitor was installed it alerted positive for alcohol consumption and she was arrested by probation officers for a violation of her probation. As a result, Butte County Superior Court Judge Jesus Rodriguez ordered her to state prison in April 2023 for a comprehensive 90-day diagnostic and psychological report as to whether to reinstate her on probation.

The report produced by the prison authorities and adopted by the local probation office recommended Hemmingsen be reinstated on probation to undergo intensive local treatment for her mental and alcohol issues. Ramsey said his office objected to the reinstatement on public safety grounds and urged the judge to resend her back to state prison for the two-year maximum term.

The judge however adopted the prison and probation authorities' report and recommendation to reinstate Hemmingsen on probation.

Ramsey said his office then urged the judge to order that she be given no credit for the time she had spent in custody in the local jail and state prison. Ramsey explained that if she were to violate probation again she would have to serve a full prison sentence without any credit for time previously served.

Ramsey said his office also recommended the judge order Hemmingsen to enter and complete a full six-month residential treatment program at her expense and without credit for the time spend at the treatment facility.

The judge followed the district attorney's additional probation condition recommendations in reinstating Hemmingsen on probation for five years with further conditions for mental health treatment; abstention from alcohol and marijuana; and GPS ankle monitoring.



**Gail Hemmingsen**