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## Mother and Son Plead Guilty in Embezzlement Scheme



**Randi Smith**



**Dakota Smith**

**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that RANDI SMITH, 53, of Amsterdam, NY, and DAKOTA SMITH, 23, of Saratoga Springs, NY, each pleaded guilty this week before Judge Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court for their respective involvement in an embezzlement scheme.

RANDI SMITH pleaded guilty yesterday, September 24, 2018, to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony. Her son, DAKOTA SMITH, pleaded guilty to the same charges today.

Between June 14, 2011 and May 4, 2018, RANDI SMITH, who was acting as the Chief Fiscal Officer of the New York State Weatherization Directors Association, wrote checks without authorization to herself and to cash using the association's Bank of America business checking account, totaling approximately \$801,000. To cover up the checks, SMITH created fake invoices and made them a part of the agency's business records.

RANDI SMITH faces 3 to 9 years in State Prison, when sentenced on November 19, 2018. Additionally, SMITH will be subject to restitution in the amount of \$801,000.

Additionally, between November 8, 2017 and May 1, 2018, DAKOTA SMITH wrote checks without authorization to himself, his construction business, and to his father's business, using the New York State Weatherization Directors Association's Bank of America business checking account, totaling approximately \$353,200. When SMITH'S bank inquired about the unusual deposit activity, he provided a forged contract between his construction company and the agency to justify the funds.

DAKOTA SMITH faces 2 to 6 years in State Prison, when sentenced on November 20, 2018. SMITH will also be subject to restitution in the amount of \$353,200.

The defendants were brought to justice after a thorough investigation conducted by the New York State Police, with special assistance from their Financial Crimes Unit.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Griggs of the Financial Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or [cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov](mailto:cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov)

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