

NEWS

Therapist for county faces forgery charges

By **DAILY NEWS** | |

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A Marina del Rey resident who worked as a contract therapist for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has been charged with submitting more than \$500,000 in false bills and other charges, prosecutors said Friday.

Carla Gireaux, 62, a Santa Monica licensed marriage and family therapist, pleaded not guilty Thursday to six counts of grand theft, three of forgery, four of filing a false tax return and one for failure to file an income tax return.

Gireaux was arrested late Wednesday, the same day charges were filed. She is currently being held on \$500,000 bail, according to prosecutors.

She returns to the Foltz Criminal Justice Center on March 3.

Prosecutors say that from October 2002 to December 2007 Gireaux allegedly submitted false claims to the county for services she never provided.

She's also accused of over-billing by claiming she provided more sessions than she actually did, and continuing to bill when her services ended, according to prosecutors.

Gireaux also allegedly forged signatures of parents of patients on at least three occasions.

In addition, the state Franchise Tax Board claims she filed false tax returns in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007. In 2006, she allegedly failed to file a tax return at all.


If convicted of all the charges, Gireaux faces a maximum sentence of eight years and four months in prison.

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