



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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## **Armando Garcia-Ramirez Pleads Guilty After Misclassification Arrest**

February 11, 2020

MEDIA – Armando Garcia-Ramirez has pleaded guilty to theft by unlawful taking and conspiracy to commit workers’ compensation fraud, both felonies of the third degree, and also improper classification of workers, a third-degree misdemeanor under Act 72 of 2011, in connection with his role in the conspiracy to operate an enterprise known as G&R Drywall and Framing, LLC. Garcia-Ramirez was sentenced to time served to 23 months with one year of consecutive probation and will have to pay restitution of \$28,119 to the workers’ compensation fund under the terms of the guilty plea. This plea follows an announcement by Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer and Attorney General Josh Shapiro one month ago of the filing of criminal charges against Garcia-Ramirez and three other individuals.

“We were happy to have assisted District Attorney Stollsteimer’s office in this investigation. Construction companies need to know that we are watching this area very closely, and we are prepared to work together to take action in order to respond,” said AG Shapiro. “We look forward to continuing this partnership, and lending the support of our office to local DAs across the Commonwealth as law enforcement continues to prosecute these cases.”

Act 72 of 2011, commonly referred to as the Construction Workplace Misclassification Act, provides certain criteria that must be met in order for a worker to be legally classified as an independent contractor. Investigations in this

matter revealed that Garcia-Ramirez intentionally misclassified more than 30 workers who did not meet the definition of independent contractors under Act 72 in order to avoid paying taxes on their wages. This is the first joint prosecution and conviction under this law. The three remaining defendants are all scheduled for a preliminary hearing on March 8. All individuals are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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