

Three Years For Embezzler

Daily News-Record (Harrisonburg, VA) - June 26, 2015

- Author/Byline: RYAN CORNELL
- Section: News (Local)

HARRISONBURG - A Weyers Cave woman who pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$300,000 will spend three years in prison.

Fay Mitchell, 43, was sentenced Thursday in Rockingham County Circuit Court on 30 counts of embezzlement and forgery from her former employer, Valley Endodontics on Country Club Road in Harrisonburg, according to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Mitchell is ordered to serve an active three-year sentence and pay \$286,452 in restitution, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Armanda Clymer said.

Clymer said Mitchell embezzled \$311,452 from 2007 to 2013 while working at the dental practice.

Mitchell, who was hired by the practice in 1996, had access as a receptionist and bookkeeper to its checkbook and bills, Clymer said.

"And she would write herself a check and forge one of the doctors' signatures on it, and in QuickBooks [bookkeeping computer software she] would enter that under ... `dental equipment,'" Clymer said. "And then when the statements would come in, she would remove the pages that showed the checks that were written for her and shred those."

Clymer said Mitchell voluntarily left Valley Endodontics in 2013, and an accountant was hired to do dental practice's taxes after she left.

"He noticed the amount they spent on supplies had drastically decreased, and he started looking into it and that's how it was discovered," she said.

Circuit court documents say Mitchell was arrested May 19, 2014.

Mitchell pleaded guilty in circuit court on Feb. 25.

Her attorney, John Holloran, could not be immediately reached for comment late Thursday.

Contact Ryan Cornell at 574-6286 or rcornell@dnronline.com

- Record: 9a73d9103e1725f2e7325cb31acc1f9e87d668
- Copyright: Copyright (c) 2015, Byrd Newspapers, All Rights Reserved.