

CLALLAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 12, 2025
Port Angeles, Washington

Bothell Man Sentenced to Prison for Theft

Clallam County Superior Court Cause No.:25-1-00067-05

On December 11, 2025, Clallam County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Stanley sentenced Pralay Kar, 39, of Bothell to 12 months and 1 day in prison for four counts of theft in the first degree, a class B felony. The sentence followed a guilty plea.

The charges stemmed from a scheme that targeted elderly individuals in both Clallam and Jefferson counties. Under the scheme, elderly individuals were tricked into handing over thousands of dollars in cash which they were directed to secure within a lock box and then cover in duct tape. Gold bars were also handed over. According to the certification for probable cause filed with the court, Kar was identified as being involved in the scheme through video footage. Law enforcement subsequently located Kar in Bothell. He was found in possession of one of the lock boxes that had been provided by a Clallam County resident under the scheme and arrested.

Under Washington law, Kar's standard range sentence was 4-12 months, however, the parties agreed to an exceptional sentence of 12 months and one day, which had the effect of converting what would have otherwise been a jail sentence into a prison sentence.

At sentencing, one of the Clallam County victims made a victim impact statement through her advocate from Healthy Families of Clallam County which revealed the elaborate nature of the scheme. The victim recounted that she received a telephone call from an individual who identified themselves as "John Davis" with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The caller told the victim that she was being investigated for money laundering and that as a show of good faith, she needed to follow certain steps. The steps included taking his calls at all hours, leaving the line open so he could hear her talk, buying a lock box, withdrawing \$40,000 (the first time), putting the money in the lock box, duct taping it shut, and meeting the caller in the parking lot of a local Walgreens to hand off the money. The victim was told by the caller that

the person from the FTC would show her a dollar bill with a particular serial number but would not talk to her; she was further directed to leave the line open so the caller could hear everything when the exchange occurred. The victim stated that this occurred three times totaling an amount of over \$120,000.00. When the caller asked the victim to turn over her retirement, she knew something was wrong and contacted the police.

Kar addressed the Court at sentencing and stated he was new to the United States and needed work, so he accepted a courier job and did not know that what he was doing was illegal.

The State, represented by Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Michele Devlin, also addressed the Court. “It is difficult to fathom how a person could believe that picking up a box wrapped in duct tape in a parking lot by showing a dollar bill to an elderly person and then having to open the box and video tape counting the thousands of dollars is a legitimate form of work,” said Devlin. “These financial scams targeting our elderly population are becoming more prevalent; if you are concerned in the least, call law enforcement and inquire. Thank you to the diligent and highly technically sophisticated investigation by the Clallam County Sheriff’s Criminal Investigation Bureau for bringing one of the defendants to justice.”

Prosecuting Attorney Mark Nichols lamented the relative lack of accountability under Washington law for offenders caught perpetrating financial crimes, particularly those against vulnerable populations. “The impact of these crimes can be absolutely devastating. This is especially true with older adults, whose retirement can be wiped out with little time to recover. I will be contacting our state representatives and encouraging them to advocate for increased accountability in these cases.”

Office Info:

The Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office employs over 25 people, including 13 attorneys. Clallam County, which includes Forks, Port Angeles and Sequim, has an approximate population of 78,000.

The Criminal Division represents the state and the county in criminal matters in the Clallam County District and Superior Courts. The Criminal Division is responsible for prosecuting all felonies in Clallam County and all misdemeanors in unincorporated areas of Clallam County as well as the Cities of Port Angeles and Sequim.

The Civil Division acts as the law firm representing the County and its agencies. The Civil Division advises and represents all of the County’s elected officials and departments on a myriad of complex legal matters. The range of legal representation provided by this unit is expansive and covers virtually every aspect of civil practice.

The Child Support Division is wholly funded by and represents the Division of Child Support of the State of Washington. The Support Division carries out judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcements for failure to pay court-ordered child support, and modifications to existing child support orders. The Support Division also represents the State of Washington in collection actions on parents owing a duty of support.

For more information contact:

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