



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **FORMER REVENUE WORKER GIVEN MAXIMUM SENTENCE**

A woman accused of stealing more than \$10-million dollars from Colorado's Department of Revenue was given the maximum possible prison sentence by a Denver District Court judge today.

**Michelle Cawthra** (dob: 08-27-76) was sentenced to 24 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Speaking at the sentencing hearing, Revenue Director Roxy Huber asked the judge to send a strong message. "When you steal from the taxpayers, the consequences must match the level of betrayal," she said. Denver Deputy District Attorney Kandace Gerdes echoed a similar sentiment as she argued for the maximum sentence in the case.

Cawthra apologized and said she took responsibility for her actions. Her attorney asked the judge to consider a lengthy sentence to Community Corrections so that Cawthra could work and begin to pay back at least a portion of the money she stole.

Denver District Court Judge Sheila Rappaport said she looked for mitigating circumstances but could find none as she handed down the 24-year term. She noted that Cawthra will receive credit for 581 days already served in jail and ordered restitution in the amount of \$10,868,963.94