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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY DELGADILLO FILES CHARGES AGAINST LANDLORD IN SECTION EIGHT HOUSING SCAM**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the city's chief prosecutor, today announced his Office has filed criminal charges against a Los Angeles man who fraudulently accepted funds from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) for a deceased Section 8 tenant for nearly a year.

Leo Klausner, 68, was charged with one count each of grand theft, forgery, and theft by fraudulent pretense. If convicted on all counts, Klausner could face up to three years in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

The complaint alleges that Klausner, through a trust that owns a building on South Normandie Avenue, had entered into an agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles to rent apartments to tenants in a federal housing assistance program (Section 8) and, in turn, received subsidized payments from the Housing Authority for rent and utilities.

In 2005, Ruth Haisch, a Section 8 tenant living in Klausner's apartment building, died. Klausner failed to report the death to the Housing Authority and continued to receive housing assistance payments totaling more than \$11,000 over a period of 11 months. Only after a sublet tenant had moved out of Haisch's former apartment did Klausner finally report the death in October, 2006.

In addition to receiving wrongful payments, Klausner further violated the law by signing the name of his father "Max Klausner" – who died in 1995 - when endorsing the Housing Authority assistance checks in order to deposit them. The property was originally held in the name of Max Klausner when the relationship with the Housing Authority was entered into for this property.

Results of the investigation into the Leo Klausner's illegal activities were forwarded to City Attorney Delgadillo's Special Trials Unit for prosecution by Deputy City Attorney Ellen Friedmann.

Arraignment is set for August 1 in Division 81 of the Central Arraignment Court in Los Angeles.