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Hiawatha Woman Sentenced in Theft Case

(KNZA)-- A Hiawatha woman convicted of embezzling funds while she worked for a local realty company has been placed on probation and ordered to pay \$30,000 restitution.

35-year-old Gretchen Randall was sentenced Monday in Brown County District Court on charges of felony theft and misdemeanor criminal use of a financial card.

District Judge Jim Patton gave Randall a suspended 19-month prison term on the charges and placed her on 12-months supervised probation.

Brown County Attorney Kevin Hill requested that Randall be ordered to serve 60-days in jail as part of the terms of her probation. Patton told Randall he was reserving that right, if she doesn't abide by the terms of her probation.

Randall pleaded “no contest” in April to the charges as part of a plea-agreement. In exchange for the plea, an additional count of felony theft was dismissed.

Hill says the crimes occurred in 2014 and 2015 while Randall was employed with Heartland Realty, of Hiawatha.

She was arrested in January following an investigation by the Hiawatha Police Department.

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