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First Degree Murder Adjudication
People v. Joseph Jimenez, JW1411455-00 and Skylar Dean, JW135696-00

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant juvenile adjudication. On January 16, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christine Antonios, a Kern County Superior Court Judge found true¹ all charges alleged against Joseph Jimenez and Skylar Dean. Due to the case being heard in Juvenile Court, the case proceeded through a Jurisdictional Hearing². Both minors were found to have committed First-Degree Murder and Robbery in Concert. Dean was 14 years old at the time of the crime, while Jimenez was 17 years old.

On August 21, 2022, Dean and Jimenez planned and executed a home-invasion robbery with a third party, Aiden Marquez (then 19). They targeted the family at a residence where Dean had been staying for a couple of weeks. Messages among additional evidence between the three revealed that they planned to steal cash, guns, and other valuable items. Around 11:00 p.m. on the night of the incident, Dean let Marquez and Jimenez into the residence and provided them with a shotgun. The attackers broke into the bedroom to confront the adult male resident and his children. They pointed the shotgun and demanded items from the home. The resident grabbed the firearm, told his children to run, and fought off the attackers. Marquez and the resident struggled over the shotgun while Jimenez stabbed the resident in the back using a screwdriver. During the altercation, the resident was able to defend himself and Marquez was killed during the altercation. Because of their role in the deadly attack, Dean and Jimenez were found legally responsible for Marquez's death.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated, "Violent crimes like burglaries and robberies can turn deadly in just moments. Unfortunately, the family was forced to defend against a terrifying attack because of the inexcusable actions taken by the attackers."

¹ True findings are the juvenile equivalent to a guilty finding in an adult criminal case.

² A Jurisdictional Hearings is a court trial where a judge determines if a minor(s) committed a crime.

³ A Dispositional Hearing is the juvenile equivalent to a sentencing hearing in adult court.

A juvenile court's jurisdiction ends by the minor's 25th birthday, although juveniles can earn credits for earlier release. Absent unusual or extraordinary circumstances, Dean and Jimenez are expected to be released no later than their 25th birthday, in nine and six years. For Dean, a dispositional hearing³ is set for January 29, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. For Jimenez, a dispositional hearing³ is set for January 30, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.