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Kern County Jury Finds Kindle and Hamilton Guilty of Murder
People v. Ira Kindle and Keith Hamilton: Kern County Superior Court Cases BF193990A/B

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced significant murder convictions. On September 9, 2024, a Kern County Jury found defendant Ira Kindle guilty of first-degree murder with the use of a firearm and defendant Keith Hamilton guilty of second-degree murder and accessory after the fact. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Allen.

In the early morning hours of March 18, 2023, Defendants Kindle and Hamilton took the life of Christopher Pudwill. Kindle and Hamilton had spent several hours socializing together and drinking outside of the Family Food Market located on 34th street in Bakersfield. Hamilton was armed with a firearm throughout the night. Kindle, after seeing the victim across the street, discreetly obtained the firearm from Hamilton, while a third party distracted the victim. After the handoff of the firearm, Kindle faced the victim and fired eight shots at him, hitting him twice, and causing his death. Kindle and Hamilton then calmly walked away from the scene together. Hamilton later attempted to discard the firearm, but it was located by the Bakersfield Police Department.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “As firearm use multiplies the harm of violent crime in our community, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to keep the illegal use of firearms off our streets and out of the hands of those who would use them to harm others.”

Ira Kindle will be sentenced on October 8, 2024, and Keith Hamilton will be sentenced on October 15, 2024. Judge Charles Brehmer will preside over both sentencing hearings in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court. Kindle faces multiple sentences of 25 years to life, while Hamilton faces a sentence of up to 15 years to life, plus 2 years.

Ira Kindle:



Keith Hamilton:

