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3rd Striker Found Guilty of Assaulting Family of Four in Grocery Store Parking Lot
People v. Daniel Villareal: Kern County Superior Court Case BF199128A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced an assault conviction today. On January 24, 2025, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Louis Jameson, a Kern County jury found defendant Daniel Villareal guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, felony child abuse, misdemeanor vandalism, and possession of methamphetamine. It was also determined that the Defendant had two prior strike convictions.

On April 23, 2024, a family of four drove to the Foods Co on White Lane in Bakersfield to grocery shop. The mother was driving the car with her three daughters ages 17, 14, and 3. As they were getting ready to leave their car, Daniel Villareal opened the front passenger side door where the 14-year-old daughter was seated. Villareal brandished a kitchen knife at her and was preparing to strike her. The mother closed her daughter's door and drove the car away. While the attack was ongoing, Villareal threw a bag at their car windshield - damaging it. In that bag, which remained on the hood of the family's car, was Villareal's California ID card.

Police located Villareal at a Fastrip across the street from where the assault occurred. At that time, they searched his person and found him to be in possession of knives and methamphetamine.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Families should feel safe while doing something as ordinary as grocery shopping. No mother should ever have to face such violence or protect her children from it. Thankfully as a third-strike offender, Villareal will be eligible for significant prison time."

Sentencing is set for February 25, 2025, in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Eric Bradshaw. Villareal faces up to 25-years to life as this is a 3rd strike case.

Daniel Villareal:

