



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 17, 2025
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Jaycie Knox
(661) 868-2759

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #24-29

Man Convicted of Arson Among Other Charges After Setting Girlfriend's Front Lawn on Fire
People v. Jacob Burton: Kern County Superior Court Case BF200363A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a successful criminal conviction today. On March 13, 2025, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Jaycie Knox, a Kern County jury found defendant Jacob Burton guilty of Felony Arson, two counts of Felony Attempted Criminal Threats (lesser included offenses to the charged counts of Criminal Threats), misdemeanor vandalism, and misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol.

On July 16, 2024, Burton was drinking alcohol at his girlfriend's home when he was angered by messages he discovered on her cell phone. Burton threatened to strangle his girlfriend to death while damaging items in her home. Burton then left the residence and went to a bar in downtown Bakersfield where he continued drinking alcohol. His girlfriend called her two friends to come over to her house because she was upset and scared. After the friends arrived, Burton began calling all three women and in one phone call threatened to light the house on fire, throw Molotov cocktails through the window, and drive his truck through the side of the home. A short while later, Burton arrived at his girlfriend's home with a can of gasoline which he used to light a fire in the front yard of the residence. He banged on the windows of the home while the three women hid in a back room armed with a firearm fearful that he would make entry into the house. Thankfully the fire was extinguished quickly and neither the home nor any surrounding houses were damaged as a result.

Kern County Sheriff's Office Deputies arrived and detained Burton on scene. He was taken to Kern Medical Center where his blood was drawn and a blood analysis showed that his blood alcohol concentration was 0.161%.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "Burton's actions were not only unacceptable but also extremely dangerous. I can't even begin to fathom the fear and distress the victim must have experienced in this situation. While I am relieved that no harm came from it, his behavior still deserves to be met with criminal consequences."

Sentencing is set for April 15, 2024, in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court before the

Honorable Judge Brian McNamara. Burton faces up to 3 years, 8 months in prison.

Jacob Burton:

