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Man Convicted of Attempted Murder with a Firearm After Fleeing to Arkansas
People v. Jimmy Newman: Kern County Superior Court Case BF201895A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant felony conviction today. On April 4, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jaycie Knox, a Kern County jury found defendant Jimmy Newman guilty of four felony charges: attempted murder, assault with a firearm, and two counts of possession of a firearm by a felon.

On October 13, 2024, the victim was home at the trailer park where he resides in Weldon, California. Newman, who also lived on the property, was angered by a verbal argument that the two had the night prior and attempted to strike the victim with his vehicle. Unsuccessful, he left the scene for approximately 30 minutes. When he returned, Newman had a shotgun in hand and walked through the property where he encountered the victim. He pointed the shotgun at the face of the victim, who attempted to walk away to deescalate the situation. Newman then followed the victim. Once the victim turned back to face him, he shot the victim one time in the chest from a distance of five feet. The victim was air-lifted by helicopter to Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield where he underwent emergency surgery.

Newman immediately fled the scene and disposed of the shotgun. Cell phone evidence showed that he fled East-bound on the 178 where he turned off his cell phone within ten minutes to avoid detection. He was not again heard from until October 22, 2024, when he was pulled over by the Searcy Police Department in Arkansas for expired registration. Newman had placed false license plates on his truck and painted it a different color. He was immediately taken into custody and extradited back to California after officers discovered his felony warrant.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Gun violence is a prevalent and unacceptable threat to our community. Thankfully the victim survived, but his life will be invariably altered by the defendant’s senseless and violent actions. We will pursue the maximum penalty under the law.”

Sentencing is set for May 2, 2025, in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge David Zulfa. Newman faces 34 years to life in prison.

Jimmy Newman:

