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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Williams Found Guilty of the Murder of Ex-Girlfriend
People v. Martin Williams: Kern County Superior Court Case BF196124A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder conviction. On May 9, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christine Antonios, a Kern County jury found defendant Martin Williams guilty of first-degree murder with the use of a firearm, attempted murder causing great bodily injury or death, assault with a deadly weapon, first degree burglary, domestic violence, and felon in possession of a gun.

On January 17, 2022, Williams entered Ms. Latashanay Jones' home located in the 500 block of W. Columbus St in Bakersfield. While in the presence of at least two minors, Williams shot Ms. Jones multiple times in the abdomen and in the back. Ms. Jones' boyfriend and a neighbor rushed her to the hospital, where she spent the next eleven months enduring countless surgeries and procedures in an attempt to save her life. She eventually died on January 22, 2023 from complications of the gunshot wounds.

Williams and Ms. Jones had a prior relationship that she had ended. In the weeks leading to the murder, Ms. Jones had not answered Williams' calls and made it clear that she was not interested in his romantic pursuits.

Williams had been previously convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, specifically a knife, resulting in great bodily injury upon a prior girlfriend in 2011.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented, "Williams had a history of violence against women which escalated ultimately into this unprovoked murder. Not only has an innocent life been violently taken, but the children forced to witness this crime will carry the trauma with them for years. Williams' crimes warrant the multiple life sentences that he will most certainly receive at sentencing."

Sentencing is scheduled for June 26, 2025 before the Honorable Judge John Brownlee in Department 6 of the Kern County Superior Court. Williams faces up to 80 years to life in prison.

Anyone experiencing domestic violence is encouraged to contact the [Kern County Family Justice Center](#) for assistance. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. For emergency needs and shelter, call the 24-hour Crisis Hotline at 800-273-7713.

Martin Williams:

