



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

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH R. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Gina Nargie
(661) 868-2340
DDA David McKillop
(661) 868-2330

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Premature Parole Hearing Held for Convicted Double Murderer Due to Youthful Offender Laws
CDC #P73465; Court Case number SC078785A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Francisco Pimentel Jr. On June 4, 2025, BPH found that Pimentel continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On July 22, 1999, Pimentel murdered both Gabriel Salcido and Edward Gonzalez Jr. On that evening, Pimentel, age 17, was upset that his sister had both victims over at their house drinking and listening to music. A witness heard approximately 5 gunshots in "rapid succession." When the witness looked out the window, she saw Pimentel and another male walking from the front of the house to the driveway. A short time later, a female was seen dumping a large trash bag into the garbage.

When law enforcement arrived, they found a garbage bag with bloody clothes and shoes, one of the victim's cell phones, five expended shotgun shells, one live round, and the murder weapon. Pimentel admitted shooting both victims and confessed to moving the victim's vehicle into the garage, dragging the two bodies over to the car, putting them in the backseat, and hosing blood off the walkway. Investigation revealed that Gabriel Salcido died from a shotgun wound to his head. Edward Gonzalez Jr. died from a shotgun wound to the right side of his neck.

On February 15, 2000, a Kern County Jury found Pimentel guilty of two counts of murder in the first degree. The jury also found true that the multiple murder special circumstance allegation and that Pimentel intentionally and personally discharged a firearm in the commission of both murders that resulted in death. On March 15, 2000, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to life without parole, plus an additional 25 years.

While serving time in prison in Kings County in 2008, Pimentel stabbed another inmate. Pimentel was convicted in Kings County case number O8CM7049 of attempted murder, assault on another inmate with a deadly weapon, and possession of a sharp instrument while in prison. It was also found true that

Pimentel personally inflicted great bodily injury and had suffered two prior “strike convictions.” In 2009, a Kings County Judge sentenced Pimentel to 27-years-to-life. That sentence was to be served consecutive to the two sentences of life without parole in Kern County.

According to CDCR records, Pimentel’s minimum eligible parole date is January 25, 2099. He is currently 43 years old and has served nearly 26 years in prison. Pimentel is before the Board of Parole pursuant to Youthful Offender Laws. According to California law, despite a life without the possibility of parole sentence, a person is eligible for parole if they were under 18 years old when they committed the crime and have served 25 years in custody.

On June 4, 2025, the BPH conducted Pimentel’s initial parole hearing. The commissioners focused on Pimentel’s history of violence starting in childhood, gang activity in the community and within the prison, his rehabilitative programming, and substance abuse history.

The Kern County District Attorney’s Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Pimentel was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Pimentel’s commissioners issued a five-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “It is deeply concerning that individuals who have committed heinous life crimes are eligible for parole due to lenient laws that are not victim focused. Pimentel’s actions clearly demonstrate his ongoing threat to public safety, and we are committed to confronting any obstacles as we persist in our opposition to his release.”

Francisco Pimental:

