



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

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Cole Sherman
(661) 868-2350

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Jeffrey Sellers Guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter for Punch that Killed 61-Year-Old Victim
People v. Jeffrey Sellers: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF192269A

On August 12, 2025, a Kern County jury found Jeffrey Sellers guilty of all charges, including Involuntary Manslaughter, Assault with Force Likely to Cause Great Bodily Injury, and Battery Causing Serious Bodily Injury for killing Michael Davis in September of 2022. This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cole Sherman.

On the afternoon of September 20, 2022, eighteen-year-old Jeffrey Sellers and his girlfriend were walking on Greenacres Drive just west of Calloway Drive. They were accompanied by the girlfriend's pit bull which wasn't on a leash. The pit bull ran into the yard of Michael Davis, a 61-year-old man, with pre-existing heart problems. Mr. Davis told Sellers to get the dog and the two of them began arguing over the dog at the bottom of Mr. Davis' driveway. Once the dog was restrained, Mr. Davis turned and began walking back toward his residence when Sellers cursed at him and called him a name. Mr. Davis turned around and Sellers then walked onto the sidewalk in front of Mr. Davis' driveway and forcefully punched Mr. Davis in his face, causing him to go limp, fall to the ground, and strike the back of his head on the concrete. A neighbor who witnessed the incident helped Mr. Davis who was bleeding heavily and was semi-conscious. Sellers and his girlfriend fled westbound on Greenacres Drive.

Mr. Davis was taken to the hospital where he underwent emergency brain surgery. The surgery was successful; however, Mr. Davis had lasting brain damage and never recovered consciousness. He lingered in a coma from September 21, 2022, until he passed away in June of 2023. The Kern County Coroner forensic pathologist determined that Mr. Davis died due to complications from blunt force head trauma stemming from the punch.

At trial, Sellers testified and claimed that Mr. Davis was wielding a baseball bat at the time Sellers decided to punch him. The defense also hired and presented a forensic pathologist from San Diego who testified that Mr. Davis did not fall to the ground because he was punched, but because the emotional

stress of the argument caused him to faint and fall to the ground. The jury rejected these claims which were contradicted by the other evidence.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Sellers’ decision to violently assault a man in his own driveway, who was justifiably upset over the unleashed dog, was senseless and tragic. The jury correctly saw through the false claims of self-defense and the cause of death put forward by the defense. Sellers’ disregard for the value of Mr. Davis’ life warrants the prison sentence that he should receive.”

Sentencing is scheduled for September 10, 2025, before the Honorable Brian M. McNamara in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court where Sellers faces a sentence of up to 9 years in prison.

Jeffrey Sellers:

