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Bakersfield Drug Dealer Faces Decades in Prison Thanks to Proposition 36
Elevated Sentencing Enhancements
People v. Ruben Gutierrez Garcia: Kern County Superior Court Case BF206758B

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant verdict in a narcotics case. On June 11, 2026, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Truman Hance, a Kern County Jury found Ruben Gutierrez Garcia guilty of five counts of possessing narcotics for sales, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine, and maintaining his residence for the purposes of sales. The jury also found true the special allegations that Gutierrez Garcia possessed more than 1 kilogram of fentanyl, more than 1 kilogram of heroin, and more than 10 kilograms of methamphetamine.

On September 11, 2025, Detectives with the Kern County Sheriff's Office High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, in coordination with the Bakersfield Police Department and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, executed a search warrant to search for and seize illegal narcotics at Gutierrez Garcia's residence. Hidden throughout the house were massive quantities of processed and packaged narcotics, including 45 pounds of methamphetamine, 10 pounds of fentanyl, 2.5 pounds of heroin, and 2 pounds of cocaine salt. Detectives noted the seized drugs were worth nearly \$1,000,000.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "There has been a significant shift in the penalties faced by high-volume narcotics dealers following the passing of Proposition 36. Although weight-based sentencing enhancements for hard drugs previously existed, Proposition 36 made substantial changes by requiring qualifying enhancements to be served in state prison rather than county jail, in addition to creating fentanyl-specific weight enhancements. Proposition 36 ensures that offenders who flood our communities with deadly substances face meaningful consequences that match the seriousness of these crimes."

Sentencing is set for July 14, 2026, before the Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court. Gutierrez Garcia is facing up to 21 years in state prison.

Ruben Gutierrez Garcia:

