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Villachana Convicted of First Degree Murder Committed During Armed Residential Burglary
People v. Luis Villachana: Kern County Superior Court Case BF201128A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder verdict. On July 17, 2026, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brandon Stallings, a Kern County Jury found defendant Luis Villachana guilty of First Degree Murder with use of a Firearm, Residential Burglary while Armed with a Firearm, Attempted Murder, three counts of Assault with a Semi-Automatic Firearm, Shooting into an Occupied Vehicle, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Felon in Possession of Ammunition.

On August 29, 2024, the Kern County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in Oildale on a report of a woman being shot by an unknown assailant. During an extensive investigation, homicide detectives discovered that Villachana had a motorcycle that was stolen from his residence in the early morning hours of August 29th. Instead of contacting law enforcement to report the theft, Villachana recruited numerous individuals to track down the stolen motorcycle, leading the Defendant and two other subjects to a house in Oildale. Villachana discovered that his motorcycle was inside the garage of the resident. He then went inside the house and assaulted a roommate in an attempt to get more information about who stole his motorcycle. Another roommate was contacted, who in turn contacted his parents. The roommate's father arrived at the house first and was involved in trying to keep the peace until Villachana pulled out a firearm and started threatening him. Villachana shot at the father's feet which led to the father assaulting the Defendant in order to protect him and his wife, who had just arrived in her vehicle, along with several other family members. Villachana shot once more at the father as he attempted to run away, and then fired into the arriving vehicle, hitting the mother (Ruth Ann Cummings), who ultimately succumbed to her wounds.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "Laws are established to maintain order and promote justice, ensuring that disputes are resolved through the legal system rather than through personal acts of violence. Villachana's actions were avoidable and entirely unjustified."

A sentencing date has been set for August 14, 2026. The case is pending a bench trial on aggravating factors, which is set before Superior Court Judge Brian McNamara, in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court on July 28, 2026. If the aggravating factors are found true, the Defendant faces up to 50 to life, plus 24 years, 4 months in prison.

Luis Villachana:

