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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
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Re: Murder plea in case of People v. Steven Law BF183131A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a conviction in a significant case. On June 10, 2021 defendant Steven Law, an inmate at Kern Valley State Prison, pled guilty to murder charges stemming from the death of his cell mate, Noah Rutherford III, on February 2, 2020.

On November 29, 2019 guards at Kern Valley State Prison noticed that there was blood spattered within the defendant's cell where he was housed with the victim. When guards entered the cell they located the victim on the floor, unresponsive and covered with blood. Steven Law informed the guards that he had beat his cell mate with the intent to kill him. The victim succumbed to the injuries inflicted by Steven Law several weeks later on February 2, 2020.

Steven Law pled guilty to First Degree Murder as well as Assault Likely to Result in Great Bodily Injury by a Life Inmate. As a result of the plea, Law will receive a sentence of Life Without the Possibility of Parole.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 15, 2021 before Judge Colette Humphrey.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated, "Murder in state prison is taken very seriously. Inmates housed in state prison have the right to be protected and free from assault. The Kern County District Attorney's Office takes these crimes very seriously and will continue to fight vigorously for all victims of crime."