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Guilty Jury Trial Verdict Returned In Attempted Murder and Mayhem Case Where Defendant Brutally Stabbed Her Own Mother: BF 172576 A: Destanie Hinzo

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a domestic violence case today. On July 26, 2021, in a case prosecuted by Deputy DA Janae Knallay, a Kern County jury found defendant Destanie Hinzo guilty of Attempted Murder with premeditation and deliberation and found that she personally used a deadly weapon and inflicted great bodily injury. The jury also found Hinzo guilty of Mayhem with the personal use of a deadly weapon, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and found that she personally used a deadly weapon and caused great bodily injury. The victim of the defendant's attack is the defendant's own mother.

On June 5, 2018, the victim agreed to give Hinzo, her adult daughter, a ride to complete some errands. During the ride, Hinzo accused the victim of molesting her children, an accusation that was unfounded. After making these statements, Hinzo, who was seated directly behind the driver/victim, attacked the victim with a knife as the victim was driving the car. During the attack, the victim suffered extensive injuries to her eye, stab wounds to her face and chest, lacerations on the ear, face, and scalp, and defensive wounds to her hands. The victim additionally suffered skull fractures, fractures to the orbital bones of the eye, a contusion on the frontal lobe of her brain, and hematomas to her brain and behind her eye as a result of the attack, all of which resulted in permanent damage to her eye and scarring of her face.

Proceedings in the case faced substantial delays in the years leading up to the trial to ensure that Hinzo was competent to stand trial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction: "The sudden and unprovoked attack Hinzo perpetrated against her mother resulted in severe injury, and the brutality of the attack showed an unmistakably clear intent to kill. Public safety demands that those who commit such acts of violence face severe consequences."

Hinzo faces a potential life sentence as a result of the convictions. Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Judge Charles Brehmer on September 8, 2021 in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court.

Destanie Hinz:

