



**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

**ANDREA S. KOHLER**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**JOSEPH A. KINZEL**  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 3, 2022

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**  
**DDA John Allen**  
**(661) 868-2340**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Approved by JAK**  
**Press Release # 22-1**

**Jury Trial Murder Verdict and Insanity Plea Withdrawal: Elvira Farias: BF 162227A**

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a Kern County Jury found defendant, Elvira Farias, guilty of first-degree murder and one count assault on a child causing death. Farias had previously entered a plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, which she withdrew today on January 3, 2022, thus eliminating the need for a second phase of the trial addressing the legal insanity claim. The withdrawal of the Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity plea places the case on the same procedural posture as a traditional murder conviction, with sentencing being scheduled and Farias facing up to 25 years to life in prison as a result of the conviction.

One June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at approximately 2:15 p.m., Elvira Farias was found in in a park in downtown Shafter having recently given birth. A search was conducted by police, fire, and medical responders to locate her infant. After a few hours of searching, officers located a deceased male infant in the bushes behind 320 James Street in Shafter. Biological testing confirmed Farias was the biological mother of the infant. An autopsy of the infant revealed the infant had suffered from blunt force trauma including a fractured skull and broken ribs and was alive for less than 48 hours before being murdered by his mother. The infant was found murdered and abandoned at a location across the street from the Shafter Station of the Kern County Fire Department, a Baby Safe-Surrender location that could have provided care and services for an unwanted child.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction: "Safe Surrender laws exist to ensure that children born in the worst of circumstances are given the opportunity to survive. The murder of an infant in any circumstance is horrible, but for such a crime to occur despite immediately available options at no cost to preserve the life of a child is an atrocity that the law strongly, and rightly punishes. The withdrawal of the insanity plea is a clear indication that whatever narcotics or mental conditions that may have contributed to this murder do not rise to the level of legal insanity and will not excuse the horrendous crime committed on an infant."

Elvira Farias is scheduled to be sentenced on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, in Department 9 before the Honorable Judge Kenneth Twisselman II, where she faces a sentence of 25 years to life in prison.