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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury verdict in a domestic violence case today. On January 12, 2022, in a case prosecuted by Deputy DDA Michael Morea, a Kern County jury found defendant Jaime Celestino Hernandez guilty of assault with a semi-automatic firearm, four counts of willful cruelty to a child, felon in possession of a firearm, felon in possession of ammunition, and battery of a cohabitant.

On July 25, 2021, the defendant was arguing with the victim inside their apartment. During the argument, the defendant armed himself with a semi-automatic firearm and followed the victim into their bedroom where the defendant fired a single shot at the victim. The bullet narrowly missed the victim's head, passing through the walls of the kitchen and a closet. The proximity and location of the four young children in the apartment at the time of the shooting, put them at risk for serious injury. After the shooting the defendant further assaulted the victim and prevented her from calling 911. He then fled the scene and discarded the firearm at a neighboring apartment.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction: Defendants who abuse a domestic partner and endanger children in their home should not mistakenly believe that their crimes will go unnoticed and unpunished. We stand with these victims and their children. We will Break the Silence.

Sentencing is set for February 24, 2022, before the Honorable Judge John Lua, Jaime Celestino Hernandez faces a maximum prison sentence of 36 years and 4 months.