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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Juan Valdez Found Guilty of Fatally Stabbing Elderly Grandmother
People v. Juan Valdez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF195633A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide conviction. On February 6, 2024, a Kern County jury found Juan Valdez, age 31, guilty of the second-degree murder of his 70-year-old grandmother, Maria Valdez, with an enhancement for use of a deadly weapon. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larry L. Fields.

On July 13, 2023, just before midnight, Juan Valdez called 911 to report that he had stabbed his grandmother, whom he had been living with since he was three years old. When Bakersfield Police Officers arrived at the residence located in the 500 block of Flower Street, they found Juan Valdez standing outside. While being taken into custody, Juan Valdez stated that he had stabbed his grandmother, and she was in the living room.

Investigation revealed that Juan Valdez stabbed his grandmother who was sleeping on the couch after arguing over purchasing cigarettes. The force of the stabbing penetrated her skull resulting in terminal brain damage. The victim was taken to Kern Medical Center where she died nine days later.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction; “Elderly members of our community are often vulnerable targets and must be protected. This heinous act of domestic violence will not go unpunished.”

Scheduling is set for March 7, 2024, in Department 2 before Judge Judith Dulcich. Juan Valdez faces up to 15 years to life in prison, plus 1 year.

Juan Valdez:

