



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 2015

RAFAEL PEDROZA SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DUI COLLISION WITH DEATHS

Deputy District Attorney Sally O. Moreno and Senior Investigator Rod Campbell are pleased to announce that today, September 4, 2015, Rafael Pedroza was sentenced to 14 years and 8 months in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the deaths of Jacqueline Rivera and her eleven year old daughter.

On November 22, 2014, the defendant, while driving under the influence of alcohol, struck the victims' car that was stopped at a red light at the intersection of Chestnut and Jensen Avenues, causing the victims' car to burst into flames. Ms. Rivera's husband, son, and son's girlfriend were able to escape from the car, but due to the flames were unable to rescue the two victims who died.

After Mr. Pedrozo plead guilty to two counts of Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated, the Honorable Judge Skiles sentenced the defendant to the 14 year, 8 month term.

The case was prosecuted by the Office's Alcohol & Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program.

On the eve of this holiday weekend, Deputy D.A. Moreno wants the public to know that:

“These events were not an accident, nor were they the result of any misfortune. They were the direct result of this defendant's choice to drink and get behind the wheel of a car. Here in the County of Fresno there are 21 law enforcement agencies out looking for people driving under the influences of alcohol, street drugs, or prescription drugs. When they find you, the Office of the District

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Attorney will do everything in our power to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law.

If you plan to drink this holiday weekend, make sure you also have a plan to have a sober driver get you home, and help your friends and family to do the same.

Together we can make Fresno County safer for all us, and prevent catastrophic losses like those that were the subject of this case.”

The Media may contact Administrative Secretary Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4441 with any questions.

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