



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jerel Stanfield Sentenced to Three Life Terms for 2013 Murder

Today, May 16, 2023, Jerel Stanfield (34, of Fresno) was sentenced for first degree murder, along with other felony charges. Stanfield was sentenced to a term of 85 years to life for the first-degree murder of William Simpson and assault with a firearm upon Simpson's fiancé. Today's sentence was handed down by the Honorable Jonathan Conklin in Department 72 of the Fresno Superior Court after a Fresno County jury found Stanfield guilty following a weeks-long trial that concluded on February 9, 2023. This case is a retrial from 2015.

On March 31, 2013, Fresno Police officers were dispatched pursuant to a 911 call to a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, they discovered a William Simpson suffering from several gunshot wounds. While enroute to Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC), Simpson succumbed to his injuries. The evidence at trial revealed that Stanfield, a member of a criminal street gang, shot and killed Simpson in the early morning hours of Easter Sunday for wearing a hat depicting the letter "P." Immediately after shooting Simpson, Stanfield pointed the gun at the victims' fiancé who was awakened by the shots and trying to protect her young child. Thankfully, they were not physically harmed. Later that afternoon, law enforcement located Stanfield and a vehicle pursuit ensued. During the pursuit, Stanfield's vehicle was disabled by law enforcement. Stanfield then ran from the disabled vehicle and, while doing so, he reached towards his waistband and was shot by pursuing officers. The murder weapon was located on the defendant.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank our law enforcement partners for their dedication to this case, especially Fresno PD Lt. Andre Benson for his tireless efforts to see that justice was served.

This case successfully prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Chris Gularte.

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