



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

Taylor P. Long
Public Information Officer
fcdamedia@fresnocountyca.gov
559-600-4334

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2023

Fresno Driver Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Fatal DUI Crash Killing Father of Three

Miguel Angel Escamilla (26, of Fresno) was sentenced to 12 years in prison for gross vehicular manslaughter while impaired, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs causing great bodily injury, and hit and run from a fatal crash. Escamilla's sentence was handed down by Judge Kimberly A. Gaab of the Fresno Superior Court on Friday morning.

Escamilla was leaving a house party in the morning hours of February 28, 2021. After leaving the party, he drove away at a high rate of speed. He made it two blocks before he ran a stop sign and crashed into Daniel Barrera (34, or Fresno) at the intersection of South Sunnyside Avenue and East Church Avenue. The crash occurred at approximately 6 a.m. that Sunday morning, at which time Barrera was driving his eight-year-old son to go on a hiking trip. Following the crash, Escamilla left Barrera and his injured son in the roadway and ran to a nearby residential neighborhood. Escamilla attempted to gain entry to a residence, but the residents called 911 and Escamilla was apprehended by responding officers.

Investigation by the Fresno Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Bureau revealed that at the time of the crash, Escamilla was driving approximately 74 miles per hour. During the investigation into the Escamilla's impairment, officers determined that he was under the influence. That conclusion was reached based upon the indicators of his impairment and was corroborated by the fact that Escamilla urinated on himself during the investigation. Approximately four hours after the collision, Escamilla's blood tested positive for marijuana, and his blood alcohol concentration was still over one and a half times the legal limit for alcohol.

Barrera is survived by his fiancée and their three children—the youngest of which was not born at the time Barrera was killed.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Steven Ueltzen with our Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Unit, along with the assistance of Senior District Attorney Investigators Caleb Janca, Abraham Ruiz, and Dominic Alvarado. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

[21-5724 DUI]