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NEWS RELEASE



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Simi Valley Man Pleads Guilty to Selling Fentanyl

VENTURA, Calif. - On April 26, 2023, Alex Alvarado (DOB 06/11/91), of Simi Valley, pled guilty to one felony count of selling fentanyl, in violation of Health and Safety Code 11352(a). Alvarado also admitted to the special allegations that he served a prior term in prison or county jail, and that he was on probation or parole when the crime was committed.

In September 2022, Simi Valley Police Department narcotics detectives received information that Alvarado was selling fentanyl. After a thorough investigation, Alvarado was arrested for multiple sales of fentanyl. Detectives executed a search warrant at Alvarado's residence, locating both fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Fentanyl is a highly addictive and often deadly synthetic drug. It is estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is one of the most common drugs associated with overdose deaths in the United States.

In 2022, the Ventura County Medical Examiner reported 278 overdose deaths. Fentanyl was found in the system of 181 of the overdose victims. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office will seek to aggressively prosecute those that sell, furnish, or distribute fentanyl.

"It is through diligent detective work and collaboration with the District Attorney's Office that cases such as this are successfully prosecuted," said Deputy District Attorney Ethel Hernandez, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Narcotics Unit. "Of great importance is the Dangerous Drug Advisement that is given in fentanyl cases where the defendant must acknowledge that the substance poses a high risk of death and that they could be charged with murder if they again sell fentanyl resulting in death."

The public is urged to learn more about the dangers of fentanyl, how to find resources for people struggling with addiction, and where to get overdose rescue kits. This information can be found at www.venturacountyresponds.org.

Alvarado is scheduled to be sentenced on June 8, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 46 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

Defendant Information:

Alex Alvarado (DOB 06/11/91)

Simi Valley

Charges:

- HS 11352(a) - Sale/transportation/offer to sell controlled substance

