




GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Twitter: @VenturaDAOffice

Contact: Rameen A. Minoui
Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 654-3067
E-mail: Rameen.minoui@ventura.org
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Woman Pleads Guilty to 2009 Killing of Aunt

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Gina Francesca Drake (DOB 10/31/66), of Ventura, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, a violent felony, for the killing of her aunt, Wendy DiRodio. Drake admitted using a knife during the commission of the homicide.

Ms. DiRodio's body was discovered on June 3, 2009, with multiple stab wounds. A lengthy investigation was conducted by the Ventura Police Department which led to the filing of criminal charges against Drake in May 2012.

Sentencing for Drake is scheduled for March 29, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 25 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. It is expected that Drake will be sentenced to 11 years in state prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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