



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Oxnard Man Sentenced for Fentanyl Crimes While in Jail Holding Cell

Case #: 2019020858

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Jaime Gonzales (DOB 01/26/78), of Oxnard, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for committed fentanyl crimes while in police custody.

On June 25, 2019, Gonzales was arrested for a probation violation. He smuggled fentanyl and heroin inside his body cavity. He then pulled the drugs out and used them in a holding cell that had 11 men inside. Gonzales then shared some of the fentanyl with another man in custody. The victim became unresponsive, and Gonzales ignored the concerns of other men who wanted to call for help. After several minutes Gonzales agreed to allow the cellmates to call for help. The victim received three doses of Narcan and was hospitalized, eventually recovering from the overdose.

Gonzales was found guilty by a jury on September 29, 2022, of possession of a controlled substance, knowingly bringing a controlled substance into the jail, and knowingly possessing a controlled substance while in the jail. He also admitted having two prior strike convictions.

“The Court agreed that furnishing fentanyl and then purposefully delaying medical help to avoid getting into trouble put the victim’s life in serious jeopardy,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney Audry Nafziger. “The sentence given today reflects the serious risk of death to others from those who furnish fentanyl. All those in the cell as well as the first responders who saved the victim’s life were also at risk.”

Prosecutor Nafziger is a member of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Major Crimes, Narcotics Unit.



Defendant Information:

Jaime Gonzales (DOB 01/26/78)
Oxnard

Charges:

- HS 11352(a) (Possession of a Controlled Substance)
- PC 4573 (knowingly bring controlled substances into a jail or prison)
- PC 4573.6(a) (knowingly to possess controlled substances in prison)

Special Allegations:

- 2 strike priors 667/1170.12