



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Approved: SW
Date: January 27, 2026
Release No.: 26-017

Los Angeles Man Charged with Murder for Fentanyl Death in Thousand Oaks

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Thomas James Syslo (DOB 05/19/92), of Torrance, was charged with murder for the 2023 fatal fentanyl overdose of Freddy Dijor in Thousand Oaks. Syslo also faces felony charges for possession of fentanyl for sale and two counts of money laundering. He made his first appearance on January 26, 2026, in Ventura County Superior Court and pled not guilty to all charges.

On August 4, 2023, Ventura County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a male suffering a drug overdose at a hotel in the City of Thousand Oaks. The victim, identified as Mr. Dijor, was pronounced deceased at the scene by Ventura County Fire Department personnel and EMS responders. Detectives responded and collected evidence, including drug paraphernalia. The Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office later determined Mr. Dijor's cause of death to be the combined toxic effects of fentanyl, gabapentin, and diphenhydramine.

On September 8, 2023, the Ventura County Fentanyl and Overdose Crimes Units (VC FOCUS) detectives served a search warrant at Syslo's residence. During the search, investigators seized approximately 28 gross grams of fentanyl packaged for sale, a working digital scale, and more than \$12,000 in U.S. currency. Detectives also seized 383 professionally graded and authenticated Pokémon cards valued at approximately \$130,000. Syslo was subsequently arrested for possession for sale of a controlled substance.

Investigators from the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation conducted a financial investigation and determined Syslo is alleged to have engaged in money laundering activity over several years by buying and selling high-value collectible Pokémon cards to conceal and process proceeds derived from narcotics trafficking.

On January 22, 2026, VC FOCUS detectives arrested Syslo near his residence in the City of Torrance.

"This case underscores the deadly consequences of fentanyl trafficking and the lengths some dealers will go to conceal their profits," said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "Our office, working alongside our law enforcement partners, will continue to aggressively pursue those who profit from this deadly poison."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Audry Nafziger, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Narcotics Unit and VC FOCUS, is prosecuting the case.

VC FOCUS is a task force made up of Ventura County regional law enforcement agencies including the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Simi Valley Police Department, Oxnard Police Department, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, California Highway Patrol, as well as federal law enforcement partners. The primary mission of this partnership is to combat fentanyl related crimes and opioid overdoses by targeting the supply chain of individuals and criminal organizations responsible for the sales of these drugs into Ventura County. In addition, the task force works to identify new trends of abuse among the younger population and educate the community at large on the lethal danger of this epidemic.

Fentanyl is a highly addictive and often deadly synthetic drug. It is estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. A lethal dose of fentanyl can be as little as two milligrams. 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 ThinkAgainVC.com.

Syslo's next court date is a bail review hearing on January 28, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody with bail set at \$1 million.

Case: 2026001959

Defendant Information:

Thomas Syslo (DOB 05/19/92)

Torrance

Charges:

- PC 187(a) – Second degree murder
- HS 11351 – Possession for sale of a controlled substance (fentanyl)
- (2 counts) PC 186.10(a) – Money laundering

Special allegations:

- CRC 4.421(a)(4) – The defendant induced another to participate
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant's prior convictions
- PC 781 – Offenses in multiple jurisdictions