



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Moorpark Man Pleads Guilty to Causing Girlfriend's Death

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that William Justin Koznar (DOB 04/27/88), of Moorpark, has pled guilty to one felony count of voluntary manslaughter for the death of Sara Marie Goodwin. The change of plea hearing was held on March 24, 2026. Koznar also admitted to the special allegations of the crime involving great violence and the victim was particularly vulnerable. Koznar agreed to the stipulated sentence of 11 years in state prison in exchange for his guilty plea.

“As with any active criminal case, we continued to conduct further investigation and analysis throughout the life of the case,” Major Crimes Supervising Prosecutor Tom Dunlevy said. “In this case, that follow up identified proof difficulties with the murder charge. In consultation with the victim’s family, we sought a resolution that would ensure a conviction and a substantial prison sentence while providing finality of judgment and some measure of closure to the victim’s family.”

On October 7, 2020, police were called to a Moorpark hotel due to Koznar’s belligerent behavior in the lobby. Officers contacted Koznar in his room where the couple had been staying for approximately two weeks. When officers entered the room, they found Sara Goodwin unconscious and bleeding on the bed. She was transported for medical care but later died from her injuries. Security footage and the defendant’s own statements confirmed that no one else entered the room during that time.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Amber Lee, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Major Crime Homicides Unit, prosecuted the case.

Koznar is scheduled to be sentenced on May 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody with bail set at \$1 million.

Case: 2020028980

Defendant Information:

William Justin Koznar (DOB 04/27/88)

Moorpark

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 192(a) – Voluntary manslaughter

Special allegations admitted:

- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable

