



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Simi Valley Man Pleads Guilty to Murdering Girlfriend

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Ramon Joseph Rivas (DOB 02/17/90), of Simi Valley, pled guilty on May 20, 2026, to second-degree murder for the stabbing death of his girlfriend, Jessica Marie Tinoco. Rivas also admitted all special allegations and aggravating factors, including use of a deadly weapon, the crime involving great violence, the victim being particularly vulnerable, and strike priors.

On September 27, 2024, the Simi Valley Police Department responded to a stabbing at a residence in Simi Valley. When officers arrived, Rivas exited the home shirtless with blood on his upper torso and was taken into custody. Officers entered the residence and found Tinoco lying just inside the front door suffering from multiple stab wounds to her face, abdomen, and arms. Officers also located a bent steak knife with blood on it on the living room floor, along with blood throughout the residence.

Tinoco was transported to Los Robles Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The stabbing occurred in front of Tinoco's five children. Witnesses stated that during a domestic dispute, Rivas went into the kitchen, grabbed a knife, and began attacking Tinoco. The children fled the residence. Tinoco was stabbed multiple times, including four wounds that were determined to be fatal.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, is prosecuting the case.

"This murder was a tragedy, but what made it so uncomprehensible was the fact that the defendant murdered Jessica in front of her children," Mr. Barrick said. "There is no amount of time the defendant could serve in prison that could ever balance the scales of justice against the horrors the children witnessed and the complete disregard for their wellbeing the defendant

demonstrated on September 27, 2024. Yet, I am hopeful today's guilty plea will begin the healing process that the children and Jessica's family deserve."

Rivas is scheduled to be sentenced on July 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 26 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody without bail and faces a maximum sentence of 51 years to life in state prison.

Case: 2024026514

Defendant Information:

Ramon Joseph Rivas (DOB 02/17/90)
Simi Valley

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 187(a) – Second degree murder

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 12022(b)(1) – Use of deadly weapon
- PC 667S3 – Strike 3
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony
- PC 667(a)(1) – Serious felony prior
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant's prior convictions
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior term in prison

