



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Moorpark Man Sentenced for Incest and Providing Alcohol to Minor Daughter

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Stephen Vincent Chavez (DOB 01/17/85), of Moorpark, was sentenced to one year in Ventura County Jail and three years of felony probation for incest and providing alcohol to his 18-year-old biological daughter. Chavez previously pled guilty on May 18, 2026, to felony incest and misdemeanor providing alcohol to a minor. He also admitted he took advantage of a position of trust and that the victim was particularly vulnerable.

Prosecutors objected to the court's sentence and requested the maximum sentence allowed by law of three years in state prison.

Several members of Makayla's family addressed the court during sentencing and provided emotional victim impact statements describing the lasting trauma caused by the defendant's actions and the devastating loss of Makayla.

"The People requested the maximum three-year state prison sentence because the defendant exploited his position as a father, violated his daughter's trust, supplied her with alcohol, and engaged in criminal conduct that forever altered the course of her life," said Deputy District Attorney Tessa McCarty. "While we respect the court's decision, we continue to believe a state prison sentence was warranted under the facts of this case."

In July 2025, Chavez's 18-year-old biological daughter, Makayla, was staying with him at his residence in Moorpark. After a day of drinking at a family gathering, Chavez purchased additional alcohol for himself and his daughter to consume at home. Chavez then engaged in sexual intercourse with her. Makayla tragically took her own life in December 2025.

Prior to Chavez entering guilty pleas, District Attorney Erik Nasarenko directed the office's most experienced prosecutors to conduct a comprehensive review of whether additional charges,

including rape, could legally be filed. Investigators and prosecutors performed additional interviews, obtained and reviewed the results of new forensic testing and medical evaluations, and carefully analyzed electronic evidence.

A team of ten prosecutors within the District Attorney's Office reviewed the evidence and findings. The office also consulted with experienced prosecutors and legal experts from another county. After this extensive review, all concluded that incest was the only felony charge supported by the law, facts, and admissible evidence.

Case: 2025018307

Defendant Information:

Stephen Vincent Chavez (DOB 01/17/85)
Moorpark

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 285 – Incest
- BP 25658(a) – Giving alcoholic beverage to a minor

Special allegations admitted:

- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – The defendant took advantage of a position of trust
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable

