



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Approved: PN
Date: September 1, 2026
Release No.: 26-123

Charity Wiley Sentenced to 15 Years to Life for Ventura County's First Fentanyl Murder Conviction



Family and friends of Devin Kastler outside the Ventura County Hall of Justice.

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Charity Faith Wiley (DOB 09/21/85), of Reseda, was sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison for the second-degree murder of Devin Kastler, who died after overdosing on a deadly mixture of fentanyl and xylazine. Wiley previously pled guilty on July 6, 2026, to second-degree murder and five additional felonies related to her drug possession, sales activity, gun possession, and money laundering. She also admitted several special allegations and aggravating factors, including that the manner in which the crimes were carried out indicated planning, sophistication, or professionalism.

“This is the first fentanyl murder conviction in Ventura County, marking an important step in holding drug dealers accountable when their actions result in the loss of life,” District Attorney Nasarenko said.

During today’s sentencing hearing, Devin’s mother, father, aunt, and a close friend provided emotional and powerful victim impact statements, describing Devin’s life, the devastating loss suffered from his death, and the lasting impact it has had on those who knew and loved him.

“When my child Devin died, my life did not simply change. The life I knew ended as well. There is a version of me who existed before and now a version of the person I have had to become,” Devin’s mother, Kristi Kastler, told the court. “Charity knew her drugs were dirty. She didn’t just sell Devin drugs, she sold him something that would ultimately take away his future.”

On June 6, 2024, the Ventura County Fentanyl and Overdose Crimes Units (VC FOCUS) responded to a residence in unincorporated Simi Valley for an apparent overdose. Drugs and drug paraphernalia were found in Kastler’s room. Toxicology showed a lethal amount of fentanyl and xylazine in his system. Through the investigation, VC FOCUS identified Charity Wiley as the source of the drugs. Wiley was arrested by VC FOCUS and officers with the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) on March 5, 2025, at her home in Los Angeles County.

During the investigation, SVPD and VC FOCUS searched Wiley’s residence and a separate apartment used for her narcotics sales operation. In total, investigators located more than 3 pounds of fentanyl, 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 2.6 pounds of counterfeit Xanax pills suspected to contain fentanyl, as well as pre-packaged fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, and additional methamphetamine. Investigators also found more than \$96,000 in cash and three firearms, two of which were loaded. Numerous cell phones, stolen and fraudulent identification, and extensive evidence of narcotics sales were also located, including a drug sales business plan, hundreds of pay-owe sheets, a money counter, and drug packaging paraphernalia. The firearms were located in Wiley’s bedroom, and a subsequent investigation determined that Wiley had taken the stolen firearm in exchange for drugs. The narcotics and other evidence were located at Wiley’s residence, the drug apartment, and in storage.



Charity Wiley during the sentencing hearing in courtroom 14 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

SVPD and VC FOCUS also obtained digital data from Wiley’s cell phone that detailed her narcotics sales operation. The data included a series of text messages in which Wiley’s associate told her he refused to sell “tranq-dope” because it was killing people. He also told Wiley he refused to specifically sell “tranq-dope” to Kastler because he only “dabbles.” Wiley responded that they should not be selling fentanyl to people who “dabble.” Five days later, on June 5, 2024, Wiley sold “tranq-dope” to Kastler, resulting in his death.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Audry Nafziger and Deputy District Attorney Devin Mirchi, members of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Narcotics Unit, prosecuted the case.

"After more than 30 years as a prosecutor, I have rarely encountered someone as organized and sophisticated as Wiley, coupled with such a disregard for human life," Ms. Nafziger said. "She was warned that the drugs were killing people and agreed not to sell to Devin. She did it anyway."

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. Fentanyl is one of the most common drugs associated with overdose deaths in the United States.

In 2025, the Ventura County Medical Examiner reported 216 overdose deaths. Fentanyl or a mixture of fentanyl and other drugs were found in the system of 134 of the overdose victims. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office will seek to aggressively prosecute those that sell, furnish, or distribute fentanyl. 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.

Case: 2025004926

Defendant Information:

Charity Faith Wiley (DOB 09/21/85)

Reseda, California

Charges pled guilty to:

- PC 187(a) – Second degree murder
- (2 counts) HS 11351 – Possession for sale of a controlled substance - fentanyl
- HS 11370.1(a) – Possession of a controlled substance with firearm
- PC 186.10(a) – Money laundering
- PC 182(a)(1) – Conspiracy to commit a crime

Special allegations admitted:

- PC 781 – Offenses in multiple jurisdictions
- PC 790(a) – Jurisdiction
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism