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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 02/05/2007
Re: Efren Valencia 1108309

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, February 5, 2007

STANISLAUS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY BIRGIT FLADAGER ANNOUNCED TODAY that defendant Efren Valencia, age 29, was convicted late Thursday afternoon of felony assault with a deadly weapon, elder abuse, and causing great bodily injury.

A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury deliberated less than an hour before returning guilty verdicts after listening to evidence presented to them during a three day trial. Judge Loretta Murphy-Begen presided over the case which was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney John Baker.

Defendant Valencia's charges resulted from a May 1st, 2006 attack on his mother which resulted in her being hospitalized with a broken hand and severe lacerations. Prior to trial, Valencia decided to act as his own attorney. In the middle of the trial, he refused to attend the proceedings and left the courtroom. After the jury found him guilty, Valencia waived his right to a jury trial on the prior convictions alleged, and admitted to the court that he had been previously convicted of assault with a firearm, a strike under California's "Three Strikes and You're Out" law, and that he had served a prior prison term for that offense.

Valencia waived his right to a probation report and demanded to be sentenced immediately. Judge Loretta Murphy-Begen sentenced him to a total term of 15 years in state prison after doubling his sentence for the strike prior and adding various enhancements.

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