



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: April 6, 2017  
Re: Jesse Anselmo Castaneda, Jr.  
Vehicular Manslaughter Prison Sentence

### **For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesse Anselmo Castaneda, Jr., age 35, of Modesto, was sentenced to fifteen years in state prison for the death of Nicholas Kliewer. Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 17, 2016, Castaneda was speeding on Sylvan Avenue when he struck and killed Kliewer, a pedestrian. Castaneda's vehicle then stopped, momentarily, after it hit a traffic light. Castaneda got out, saw Kliewer lying on the ground, got back in his car, backed over the victim and drove away. He abandoned the car only after being involved in two more collisions. Kliewer died from his injuries. Castaneda never returned to the scene or notified police that he had hit a pedestrian.

Modesto Police located and interviewed Castaneda one month later. He claimed he did not remember the crash or see the victim on the ground due to being extremely drunk. He did admit drinking at bar close to the scene shortly before the collision.

On January 30, 2017, Castaneda pled no contest to the felony charge of vehicular manslaughter, admitted fleeing the scene of a crash where someone died and that his license was suspended at the time.

On April 4, 2017 Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Castaneda to the maximum possible sentence of fifteen years in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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