



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 18, 2020
Re: Martin Martinez
Guilty pleas and consecutive life sentences

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Martin Martinez, age 35, of Modesto, has been convicted of five murders for the July 2015 deaths of 57-year-old Ana Brown-Romero, 38-year-old Amanda Crews, 6-year-old Elizabeth Ripley, 6-month-old Rachael Martinez and 5-year-old Esmeralda Navarro. He was also convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the September 2014 death of 2-year-old Christopher Ripley.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees and Deputy District Attorney Rick Mury prosecuted this case on behalf of the People.

This case was being prosecuted as a capital case making Martinez eligible for the death penalty. Recently, Martinez's defense attorneys approached the prosecution with a proposed resolution which occurred today. Martinez pled guilty to the five murders and admitted the special circumstances allegations of multiple murders as well as lying in wait. He was sentenced to five consecutive life terms in prison without the possibility of parole. He also pled to voluntary manslaughter for the death of Christopher Ripley for a concurrent prison sentence of 11 years.

A lengthy meeting with family members of the victims was previously held at the District Attorney's Office to discuss the possibility of settlement and to get their input before any agreement was reached with the defense.

During the plea today, Martinez admitted that on July 18, 2015 he entered the home on Nob Hill Court in Modesto through the garage door. He first encountered Ana Brown-Romero in the laundry room and stabbed her to death. Martinez then moved throughout the house, encountering children Elizabeth Ripley and Esmeralda Navarro upstairs in the master bedroom. He suffocated Elizabeth to death first before doing the same to Esmeralda. Martinez then took Rachael Martinez from the kitchen to the crib in the downstairs bedroom where he suffocated her. After those four murders, Martinez waited inside by the front door for Dr. Amanda Crews to return home and then stabbed her.

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As agreed, Martinez also pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter for the September 30th, 2014 death of 2-year-old Christopher Ripley who died of blunt force trauma to his head.

Martinez returns to court on March 12, 2020 for family members to provide victim impact statements.

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