



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: August 8, 2018  
Re: William Eric Smith  
Voluntary manslaughter and Assault  
With a Firearm Conviction

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that William Eric Smith, age 47, of Modesto, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hoult prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On June 14, 2015, Smith shot 53-year-old Kenneth Sedra, Jr. in a Modesto garage as a result of a dispute over a car and money. Neither Smith nor other witnesses who were present did anything to seek medical help for the victim. Two days later, Modesto police officers found the victim's body in the same garage. Smith fled to Nevada but was ultimately captured by U.S. Marshals.

On August 2, 2018, Smith entered no contest pleas to two felony crimes: voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm. He admitted enhancements for having used a gun and having served time in state prison. Smith also agreed to waive over 3 years of custody credits.

In exchange for his plea, Smith will serve an agreed upon term of 26 years in state prison. Sentencing and victim impact statements occurred on August 7, 2018.

The crimes of voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm are considered "Strike" offenses under California's "Three Strikes" law and they can be used to increase any sentence Smith receives should he be convicted of a felony crime in the future.

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