



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
David P. Harris

Chief Deputies
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira
Stephen R. Robinson
Jeffrey M. Laugero

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 8, 2019
Re: Derrell Musantha Smith
Domestic Violence conviction

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Derrell Musantha Smith, age 46, of Modesto, was convicted on of attempted voluntary manslaughter, attempted kidnapping, domestic violence causing great bodily injury on March 27, 2019. Deputy District Attorney Samuel Luzadas, Jr. prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 22, 2019, Derrell Musantha Smith missed attending a custody hearing involving his ex-wife. After she left the courthouse, he followed her to a downtown Modesto alley and tried to run her down with his car, knocking her to the ground. As she lay there incapacitated, he got out and stabbed her in her torso and forearm. Smith then forced the victim to her feet and into the rear passenger seat. When she tried to run away and stumbled, Smith put his car in reverse and unsuccessfully tried to run her over again. The entire incident was caught on surveillance video from a nearby business.

On March 27, 2019, after a 7-day trial, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Smith of attempted voluntary manslaughter, attempted kidnapping, domestic violence causing great bodily injury and found true that he had been previously convicted in 1993 of four separate robberies in Stanislaus County and one assault with a firearm, all of which qualify as "strikes" under California's "Three Strikes" law.

Sentencing will take place on May 3, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. before Judge Reeves in Department 1. Smith faces a maximum potential sentence of life in state prison.

###