



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2023  
Re: Daniel Allen Coats  
Gross Vehicular Manslaughter  
Jury Trial Conviction

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Daniel Allen Coats, age 41, of Turlock was convicted on June 29, 2023, of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated along with enhancements for fleeing the scene of a vehicular manslaughter. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan prosecuted the case for the People.

On Wednesday 26, 2018, at approximately 11:38 p.m., victim Jose Manuel Mora, age 55, of Hilmar, was driving his Nissan pickup truck southbound on Lander Avenue in Turlock when he attempted to make a U-turn just south of the intersection with West F Street.

At the same time, Coats was speeding southbound on Lander Avenue in a Ford Mustang at approximately 80 miles per hour in a 40 mile per hour zone. Video surveillance from a nearby business showed Coats' vehicle hit Mora's pickup midway through the turn, ripping it in half and separating the truck's cab from the bed by nearly 100 feet. Mora sustained significant internal injuries from the crash and was pronounced deceased from his injuries after being transported to Emmanuel Medical Center.

Although Coats' vehicle sustained major front-end damage, he was able to walk away from the scene after looking at the condition of Mora's body. Witnesses later testified they heard Coats on his phone telling someone to "Get me out of here." He was picked up by family members but was followed and quickly arrested by Turlock Police officers four blocks away as he attempted to flee the scene. Coats had injuries consistent with being the driver of the Mustang. Officers noted he also showed obvious signs of alcohol intoxication but refused to provide a blood sample, forcing officers to obtain a search warrant for a forced blood draw five hours later. Coats' blood was later tested and showed that at that time his blood alcohol content was .14%, above the legal limit of .08%. A blood sample was taken from the Mustang's driver's side dashboard, and later testing proved it was a DNA match for Coats.

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Coats was charged with felony gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, felony hit and run with injury and felony drunk driving with injury along with a misdemeanor charge of driving on a suspended license. He was also charged with having a prior conviction for first degree residential burglary, a “strike” under California’s “Three Strikes” law.

On June 20, 2023, a jury trial that had been delayed several times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, commenced before the Honorable Judge Carrie Stephens. After several days of witness testimony and evidence, the jury convicted Coats of all counts on June 29th.

In a separate court trial before Judge Stephens, the court found Coats prior “Strike” conviction to be true. Coats, who has a significant criminal history with more than ten prior felony convictions from multiple California jurisdictions, returns to court on August 30, 2023, for sentencing where he faces up to 30 years in state prison.

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