



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: August 7, 2023  
Re: Isaac Leal  
Vehicular Manslaughter Conviction

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Isaac Leal, age 29, of Delhi entered a change of plea and pled no contest to vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence for causing the death of Summer Gardner Vigil. Deputy District Attorney Ahnna Reicks prosecuted the case for the People.

On the morning of August 11, 2021, at approximately 9:11 a.m., Summer Star Gardner Vigil, age 19, was riding her horse "Riggs," in the westbound lane of East Harding Road near Golf Road in Stanislaus County.

At that time, Isaac Leal was also driving westbound on East Harding Road when his 2003 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck struck the victim and her horse from behind. The impact caused Vigil to be ejected into the air and she sustained major head injuries. Her horse was killed instantly. Vigil was transported to a local hospital where she died three days later.

Leal told California Highway Patrol investigators that he briefly took his eyes off the road to put a cap back on his water bottle. When he looked up, he saw the victim and her horse right in front of him and was unable to avoid a collision. Leal believed he was driving 50 mph at the time. Although Leal had consumed alcohol the prior evening and had a blood alcohol content of .02% around the time of the crash, CHP investigators determined that Leal was not impaired at the time of the collision.

On June 28, 2023, in a negotiated plea agreement, Leal pled no contest before Judge Valli Israels to misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence. During a sentencing hearing held on August 2, 2023, Judge Israels watched a video documenting the victim's life and listened to victim impact statements from Vigil's mother, grandmother, other family members and friends.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Israels sentenced Leal to one year summary probation, ordered him to serve 121 days in county jail with 120 days of jail time suspended, complete 220 hours of community service, attend a 6-hour Driver's Safety course and a 6-hour Alcohol Awareness program. Leal must also pay restitution to the victim's family along with various mandated state and local fines and fees.



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