



January 30, 2026

CONTACT: Taylor Long, Public Information Officer
tlong@fresnocountyca.gov
559-600-4334

Cassidy Gonzalez Sentenced in Fresno County's Landmark Fentanyl Homicide Case

Today, on Friday, January 30, Cassidy Marie Gonzalez (25, of Fresno) was sentenced in Department 74 of the Fresno County Superior Court to 15 years to life in state prison for second-degree murder in the fentanyl overdose death of 41-year-old Jade Dreith. In addition, Gonzalez received a consecutive determinate of four years and four months for separate felony narcotics sales convictions.

The sentence was imposed by the Honorable Alvin Harrell, who also presided over the trial, after a jury convicted Gonzalez of all counts on March 26, 2025. This case marks a historic milestone as Fresno County's first fentanyl-related homicide case to result in a jury conviction and sentencing.

Evidence presented at trial established that Gonzalez knowingly sold fentanyl, which directly resulted in Dreith's fatal overdose. Prosecutors demonstrated that Gonzalez was aware of the extreme dangers associated with fentanyl yet continued to distribute the deadly drug.

During the investigation, evidence showed that after Dreith's death, Gonzalez continued to sell counterfeit prescription M-30s containing fentanyl. This pattern of conduct showed a continued conscious disregard for the safety of the public.

The jury found that Gonzalez acted with conscious disregard for human life, meeting the legal standard for second-degree murder under California law.

Because Gonzalez was under the age of 25 at the time of the offense, she will be eligible for a Youthful Offender Parole hearing pursuant to California Penal Code § 3051, which allows qualifying individuals to receive a parole hearing after serving a specified portion of their sentence. Eligibility for a parole hearing does not guarantee release.

“This sentencing reflects the seriousness of the defendant’s actions and the devastating and deadly consequences of distributing fentanyl,” said Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp. *“Fentanyl continues to claim lives in our community, and when someone knowingly sells this poison and a life is lost, we will pursue maximum accountability under the law.”*

Since 2021, the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office has prioritized combating the fentanyl epidemic through aggressive prosecution, legislative advocacy, and public education efforts focused on prevention and accountability.

Additional information about fentanyl and its dangers is available on the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office website at www.fresnoda.org/News-Media/Fentanyl.

The Fresno County District Attorney’s Office would like to thank the Fresno Police Department, the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office, and the California Department of Justice High Impact Investigation Team (HIIT) HIDTA for their investigative assistance and commitment to this case.

This case was successfully prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Kendall T. Reynolds of the Homicide Unit and investigated by Commander Michael Johns with the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office Bureau of Investigations.

[F22907530]