



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Simi Valley Man Sentenced for Selling Fentanyl

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Alex Alvarado (DOB 06/11/91), of Simi Valley, was sentenced on June 8, 2023, to 2 years in state prison and 3 years of mandatory supervision. Alvarado had previously pled guilty on April 26, 2023, to one count of selling fentanyl and he admitted to the special allegation that he had served a prior prison term and that he was on probation or parole when the crime was committed.

The Dangerous Drug Advisement was also given to Alvarado. The advisement states that if Alvarado continues to sell, provide, distribute, and furnish fentanyl or any of its analogs, whether alone or mixed with other substances, and someone dies as a result, he can be charged with second-degree murder.

In September 2022, Simi Valley Police Department narcotics detectives received information that Alvarado was selling fentanyl. After a thorough investigation, Alvarado was arrested for multiple sales of fentanyl. Detectives executed a search warrant at Alvarado's residence and found both fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Ethel Hernandez, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Narcotics Unit, is the dedicated prosecutor assigned to the collaborative law enforcement team making up the Ventura County Fentanyl and Overdose Crimes Units (VC FOCUS).

"Today's sentencing serves as a stern reminder that selling fentanyl will not go unpunished," Hernandez said. "We are committed to protecting our communities and sending a strong message that drug dealers will face the full force of the law."

Fentanyl is a highly addictive and often deadly synthetic drug. It is estimated to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl is one of the most common drugs associated with overdose deaths in the United States.

In 2022, the Ventura County Medical Examiner reported 278 overdose deaths. Fentanyl was found in the system of 181 of the overdose victims. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office will seek to aggressively prosecute those that sell, furnish, or distribute fentanyl.

To better hold illicit fentanyl dealers accountable, District Attorney Erik Nasarenko strongly supports the future passage of Senate Bill 44, also known as Alexandra's Bill. The legislation, which failed to gain enough support in the California State Senate Public Safety Committee in April, would require all California courts to read the Dangerous Drug Advisement to convicted fentanyl dealers.

The public is urged to learn more about the dangers of fentanyl, how to find resources for people struggling with addiction, and where to get overdose rescue kits. This information can be found at vcdistrictattorney.com/fentanyl-dangers.

Case 2022026480

Defendant Information:

Alex Alvarado (DOB 06/11/91)
Simi Valley

Charges:

HS 11352(a) - Sale/transportation/offer to sell controlled substance

