



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Approved: SW
Date: September 17, 2024
Release No.: 24-112

Simi Valley Man Charged after Fatal Fentanyl Overdose

VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County District Attorney's Office has charged Michael Thomas McDevitt (DOB 11/24/81), of Simi Valley, with involuntary manslaughter for the fatal fentanyl overdose of Thousand Oaks resident Karissa Robinson. He is also charged with furnishing fentanyl and furnishing methamphetamine with the special allegation that he caused great bodily injury. McDevitt pled not guilty at his arraignment.

On September 14, 2021, Ms. Robinson was invited to McDevitt's Simi Valley home. McDevitt is accused of providing fentanyl and methamphetamine to Ms. Robinson. After using the fentanyl, Ms. Robinson immediately collapsed to the ground and never regained consciousness. McDevitt allegedly failed to call medical care for Robinson for several hours after he discovered she was no longer breathing. McDevitt and another man placed her into a car and drove her to a nearby Ventura County Fire station. Fire personnel attempted to revive Ms. Robinson, but she was pronounced dead at the fire station.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Audry Nafziger, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Narcotics Unit, is prosecuting the case.

McDevitt's next scheduled court date is an early disposition conference set for September 23, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 11 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody with bail set at \$300,000.

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 2023, the Ventura County Medical Examiner reported 265 overdose deaths. Fentanyl was found in the system of 178 of the overdose victims. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office will seek to aggressively prosecute those who sell, furnish, or distribute fentanyl.

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 <https://www.vcdistrictattorney.com/crimes/fentanyl-dangers/>.

Case: 2024024861

Defendant Information:

Michael Thomas McDevitt (DOB 11/24/81)

Simi Valley

Charges:

- PC 192(b) – Involuntary manslaughter
- HS 11352(a) – Furnishing fentanyl
- HS 11379(a) – Furnishing methamphetamine

Special Allegations

- PC 12022.7(a) – Great bodily injury in commission of a felony
- PC 1203(e)(4) – Four prior offenses
- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – Defendant took advantage of a position of trust
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – Defendant's prior convictions
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – The defendant has served a prior term in prison or county jail