



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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Press Release
**Reo Contreras Sentenced to 24 Years in
Domestic Violence Case**

In October 2018, the defendant, Reo Contreras, violently assaulted and strangled his partner and mother of his child. This was the third time he had strangled her since March of 2018 and it happened only weeks after he was convicted of the prior assaults and previously sentenced to domestic violence treatment. Police learned of this assault when the victim's friend reported it over the victim's wishes. And it was a good thing she did—the victim had sustained a dissected carotid artery and faced a substantial risk of death. Decisive action by law enforcement and medical personnel may well have saved the victim's life.

During the prosecution, members of the Longmont Police Department and District Attorney's Victim Advocate Unit worked tirelessly to aid and protect the victim. Their work led directly to evidence that created a compelling case against the defendant and caused him to plead guilty to the lead charge of first-degree assault. Their hard work and dedication allowed the District Attorney's Office to secure a sentence of twenty-four (24) years in the Department of Corrections.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Ryan Day stated, "Strangulation is one of, if not the, most violent and brutal forms of assault. Research shows that it often precedes homicide in the domestic violence context. I'm grateful to the victim's friend for reporting this assault and to the Longmont Police Department for its efforts to hold the defendant accountable. They likely saved the victim's life. Cases like this serve as a powerful reminder that Boulder County law enforcement is full of dedicated people who work hard to protect our community and victims."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "The victim is fortunate to be alive. This sentence is what justice required, particularly given the prior assaults. This strangulation case illustrates how dangerous domestic violence can be and why it is a top priority for our office. The Longmont Police Department and DA Victim Advocates are to be commended for their outstanding efforts in this case. I appreciate the dedication, skill and advocacy of Senior Deputy DA Ryan Day in securing the just outcome for this victim and our community."