



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Shannon Carbone

Phone: 303-441-3804

scarbone@bouldercounty.org

Press Release – Guilty Verdicts in Manslaughter by Fentanyl Trial

On March 19, 2020 police were called to a home in Lafayette after a man woke up to his girlfriend not breathing and not responding; the victim was later pronounced dead. The victim's boyfriend told police he had bought what he believed to be oxycodone pills from Sammy Valdez. He and the victim, his girlfriend, each took one pill before going to bed.

The remaining pills were sent to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations and tested positive for fentanyl. The Boulder County Drug Task Force launched an extensive investigation. Mr. Valdez was arrested by the Drug Task Force. The District Attorney's Office filed charges against the defendant, including Manslaughter.

Today, following a weeklong jury trial, Mr. Valdez was found guilty of Manslaughter (F4), Distribution of a Controlled Substance – Fentanyl (DF3), three counts of Distribution of a Controlled Substance – Cocaine (DF3) and Possession with Intent to Distribute - Cocaine (DF3).

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "Given the tragic death of this victim, today's verdict is justice. Nothing will bring the victim back or fill the void for her loved ones, but we hope this trial and verdict provide some answers for them. I appreciate the efforts that Boulder County Drug Task Force poured into this investigation. As a result, the District Attorney's Office was able to file criminal charges; our team fought for justice for the victim, her family, and our community. We are grateful for the time and service of the jurors. Fentanyl dealers, such as this defendant, who seek to profit from dealing deadly drugs, must be held fully accountable."

Sentencing is set for February 2, 2023. We will have an additional statement after sentencing.