



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

11/8/17

**VISALIA MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR HIT AND RUN  
DRIVING CAUSING THE DEATH OF 87-YEAR-OLD WOMAN**

Today in Department 4 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Brett Alldredge sentenced Richard Navarrette, age 30, of Visalia, to the aggravated term of 4 years in state prison for hit and run driving causing the death of an 87-year-old Dinuba woman with an additional 8 months consecutive for a violation of probation.

On October 13, 2017, Navarrette pleaded no contest to all charges which included one felony count of hit and run driving causing death, one felony count of gross vehicular manslaughter, one misdemeanor count of driving while license was suspended and one misdemeanor count of resisting arrest. Navarrette admitted that he violated his probation in a prior 2016 case for child abuse, possession of drugs for sale and unlawful firearm activity.

The crime occurred on August 25, 2017, when Navarrette fatally injured the victim at the Vallarta parking lot in Visalia after driving with an excessive speed, hitting her with his vehicle, and leaving the scene of the incident and hiding the vehicle. Navarrette was identified through surveillance videos and witnesses' statements and tried to run away when arrested at his residence.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kalina Laleva of the Elder Abuse Division and investigated by Officers Robert Gilson and Adam Aguallo of the Visalia Police Department.

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