



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

6/20/19

VISALIA MAN SENTENCED FOR MOTORCYCLE DUI WITH INJURY

On Friday, June 16, 2017, in Department 19 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Antonio Reyes sentenced Mathew Carazolez, age 27, of Visalia, to 6 years and 4 months in state prison for a DUI crash that left a victim in a permanent coma.

On July 28, 2016, Carazolez pleaded no contest to driving while under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence with a BAC of .08%, and driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol causing injury. Each count was enhanced with the special allegation that the victim was left comatose.

In the mid-afternoon of May 24, 2014, Carazolez and the adult female victim, who was the passenger on his motorcycle, were driving in Porterville when he lost control of the vehicle and crashed. The victim, who was not wearing a helmet, was airlifted to Fresno where it was discovered that she experienced severe brain trauma and other injuries. Carazolez was questioned by law enforcement officers and found to have a .14% BAC. Investigation also found that Carazolez had marijuana in his system. The victim has remained in a vegetative state with 24 hour care since the crash.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larann Box and investigated by the Porterville Police Department.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Chief Deputy District Attorney Dan Underwood (559) 636-5494*