

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DUI CAUSING DEATH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Adam Zubiato, age 52 and a resident of Salinas, was sentenced to 6 years in state prison by Monterey Superior Court Judge Julie R. Culver for driving under the influence and causing death to the victim, Jesus Fernandez. Zubiato will have to serve 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole. Mr. Fernandez's wife and brother attended the sentencing and addressed the Court about their loss.

On October 30, 2014 just after midnight, Zubiato drove his vehicle westbound through an active construction zone on Highway 68 at approximately 75 miles per hour. Zubiato failed to obey the abundance of signage and lighting used to alert motorists of the construction zone. Zubiato turned around and entered the construction zone a second time, traveling eastbound. He drove with full disregard for traffic and construction personnel at a high rate of speed. Construction worker Jesus Fernandez, the victim, tried to wave for Zubiato to slow down. When Zubiato's car did not slow, Fernandez turned to run, but was struck and killed. Zubiato failed to stop his car and continued eastbound on Highway 68 while in the closed portion of the highway until Fernandez's fellow construction workers forced him to stop.

Zubiato was found to be under the influence of cocaine and Ambien at the time of the collision.

At today's sentencing hearing, before handing down the maximum sentence allowed by law, Judge Culver expressed what a tragedy the case is, how two young boys will grow up without a father, and how too often we see the damage from driving under the influence-drivers who endanger everyone's life on the road.

California Highway Patrol-Monterey Officers Resendo Hernandez, William Milward and Charles Rodriguez, and Monterey County District Attorney Investigator Terri Edwards conducted the investigation in this matter.

This case was presented by members of the Monterey County District Attorney's Office specialized DUI Vertical Prosecution Unit. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.