

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SOLEDAD MAN GUILTY OF MURDER FOR KILLING COUSIN IN FAMILY DISPUTE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: DOUG MATHESON,
Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5263

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Jose Carlos Romero, age 31, of Soledad, was found guilty of first degree murder of his cousin, Eric Shackelford, age 35, also of Soledad. The jury also found that Romero used a firearm in the commission of this murder.

On September 24, 2015, Romero got into a heated argument at Shackelford's residence. Shackelford was interceding on behalf of his sister-in-law who was being threatened by Romero over child visitation issues. The argument ended with Romero leaving to go to his house across town in order to retrieve a 45 caliber semi-auto handgun. Romero returned approximately 30 minutes later, saw Shackelford in the residence parking lot and shot him once in the face, killing him instantly. The shooting was witnessed by a bystander who was working on a car in that same parking lot.

Judge Carrie Panetta will set a sentencing date on January 31, 2017. Defendant Romero faces a minimum of 50 years to life in prison. The investigation was led by Detective Mollie Enriquez of the Soledad Police Department. District Attorney Investigator Christina Gunter completed the investigation and assisted during trial.