

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

CASTROVILLE MAN WHO RAN OVER OWN LEG DURING POLICE PURSUIT SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Mario Lanza Martinez, age 49 of Castroville, was sentenced to three years in state prison today after violating the terms and conditions of probation on a felony domestic violence case. Martinez was also sentenced on misdemeanor counts of violating a criminal protective order and evading a police officer.

In September of 2015, Martinez was placed on formal felony probation for strangling his girlfriend during an argument. The victim's six-year-old child observed the attack and attempted to intervene.

On February 21, 2017, in violation of a no-contact order, Martinez sent multiple text messages to the victim. The victim also accused Martinez of breaking into a storage locker and stealing some of her property. Officers attempted to make contact with Martinez, but could not locate him.

On February 27, 2017, a Marina police officer tried to pull over Martinez's vehicle for a traffic violation. Instead of pulling over, Martinez led the officer on a high-speed chase beginning in Marina and ending in the Carmel Highlands. During the 13.5-mile pursuit, Martinez drove at speeds up to 90 miles per hour, swerving in and out of various lanes of traffic and onto curbs in residential areas.

Martinez stopped the car in the Carmel Highlands and tried to run away on foot, but was injured when his leg was run over by his own abandoned vehicle, which he apparently had not turned off or placed in park prior to fleeing. Martinez was apprehended and taken into custody.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Carrie M. Panetta sentenced Martinez to the middle term of three years in state prison, finding that the circumstances of the original offense were aggravated, and that Martinez had performed poorly on prior grants of probation.