

# **\* NEWS RELEASE \***

## **SALINAS MAN PLEADS TO FATALLY STABBING MOTHER AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER BROTHER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Andrew Zapanta, age 28, a resident of Seaside, pled no contest to four counts of felony charges, including voluntary manslaughter, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and resisting an executive officer. Zapanta also admitted to causing great bodily injury and using a knife as a deadly weapon during the commission of the manslaughter and attempted murder.

On December 11, 2016, Zapanta was under the influence of methamphetamine, and engaged in an argument with his brother and mother inside the Seaside residence Zapanta shared with his parents. During the argument, Zapanta grabbed two kitchen knives and threatened to slash his wrists. He cut his left arm almost to the bone in the presence of his mother and brother, who intervened in an attempt to save Zapanta's life. During the struggle to get the knives out of Zapanta's hands, he began to swing the knives wildly, and stabbed his mother once in the heart. The knife penetrated through Zapanta's mother's aorta, collapsing her lung, and she died on the scene. He then turned to his brother and stabbed his brother approximately 5 times causing deep wounds that required stapling to heal. His brother escaped the bloody scene to the home of a neighbor, who called 911.

When police arrive at the murder scene, Zapanta was kneeling above his dead mother, asking for help. He refused to leave his mother's body and resisted arrest. After the arrest, Zapanta made incoherent comments about being watched on social media and questioned as to who committed the crime. At one point, Zapanta admitted to stabbing his mother, but also asked the treating medical personnel questions about what happened. When the police officers contacted Zapanta's brother, he pled with the officers to spare Zapanta, because, according to brother, Zapanta was "high" on drugs.

Zapanta's sentencing hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2018 before Judge Mark E. Hood. He is facing 20 years in state prison and stands convicted of three violent strike offenses.