

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney



08-806

RELEASE NUMBER

August 20, 2025

RELEASE DATE

Sr. Deputy District Attorney Anthony Davis

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Santa Barbara Man Convicted of Manslaughter in Fentanyl-Related Death

Re: *People of the State of California v. Dillon James Joseph Johnson*
Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 22CR06269

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., August 20, 2025 - Santa Barbara District Attorney John T. Savrnoch today that Dillon Johnson, 37, of Santa Barbara, pled guilty on August 19, 2025, to Involuntary Manslaughter with a special allegation that he personally inflicted great bodily injury or death. Johnson also pled guilty to selling fentanyl to the victim, transporting methamphetamine for sale, and possessing both fentanyl and methamphetamine for sale.

On April 28, 2022, Mr. Johnson sold fentanyl to Matthew Dyet. Mr. Dyet ingested the fentanyl and was found deceased the following morning, a short distance from the location of the drug transaction. The cause of death was determined to be a fentanyl overdose. Following an investigation by the Santa Barbara Police Department Narcotics Unit, the defendant was arrested on September 1, 2022, while transporting and possessing fentanyl and methamphetamine for sale.

Mr. Johnson will be sentenced on October 14, 2025, in Department 12 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court before the Honorable Stephen P. Foley. He faces a state prison sentence of 8 years and 8 months.

District Attorney Savrnoch stated, "This case is a tragic reminder of the dangers of fentanyl and the ongoing opioid epidemic in our community. The manufacture, sale, distribution, or sharing of controlled substances is extremely hazardous. When such conduct results in death, perpetrators may be prosecuted for murder. We thank the Santa Barbara Police Department detectives for their thorough investigation and Senior Deputy District Attorney Anthony Davis and the prosecution team for seeking justice for the victim and his family."

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