



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

BRIAN COOKS SENTENCED TO 21 YEARS IN PRISON FOR HIS ROLE IN CAUSING THE DEATH OF 9 YEAR-OLD JANESSA RAMIREZ

Brian Loris Cooks was sentenced to State Prison today for his role in causing the death of 9 year-old Janessa Ramirez in January 2015, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

At a pre-trial hearing last month, Brian Cooks (25, of Fresno) pleaded "no contest" to charges of Voluntary Manslaughter [P.C. § 192(a)], Participation in a Criminal Street Gang [P.C. § 186.22(b)(1)], and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon (P.C. § 29800(a)(1)).

At today's sentencing hearing, Mr. Cooks was sentenced to serve twenty-one (21) years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Prosecutors believe that Mr. Cooks fired one shot after being fired upon by individuals in a passing car. His errant shot struck Janessa, who was more than 250 yards away.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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