



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2022

## **Jennifer Claus Charged with Fourth DUI in Under Five Years, Each Prior Case Dismissed by the Courts**

On February 8, 2022, Jennifer Claus was involved in a traffic collision at approximately 6:24 p.m. at the intersection of State Route 180 and De Wolf Avenue. An investigation by the California Highway Patrol determined that Ms. Claus was driving while under the influence of alcohol when she ran a red light just prior to the collision and struck another vehicle. The driver of the car hit by Claus suffered serious injuries and was transported by ambulance to Community Regional Medical Center for treatment. Investigation revealed that Ms. Claus' blood alcohol reached levels as high as .34% around the time of driving.

Ms. Claus' current allegations represent that this is the fourth time she has been arrested for DUI in less than five years. In 2017 she was arrested for DUI in Kings County. In 2018 she was arrested for DUI in Fresno County. Then, in 2019 she was once again arrested for DUI in Kings County. In addition, she was arrested for hit and run in 2018 in Kings County. All four prior arrests resulted in separate criminal filings.

In all four of Ms. Claus' prior cases, the courts presiding over her matters granted a request for diversion. She was never required to enter a plea of guilty or no contest. In each case, the courts found that Ms. Claus had successfully completed her programming and dismissed the case.

Due to Ms. Claus' previous charges being dismissed with no convictions on record, prosecutors are unable to allege any prior DUIs as enhancements to her current charges.

A felony complaint was filed by the Fresno County District Attorney's Office on April 13, 2022, and Ms. Claus is set to be arraigned in the Fresno County Superior Court on April 18.

Ms. Claus' new charges for felony DUI causing great bodily injury will be ineligible for diversion.

The case is currently being prosecuted by the Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driver Vertical Prosecution Program. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with questions.

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[22-7992 DUI]