



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: February 24, 2017  
Re: Jose Ernesto Coria  
Felony conviction & prison sentence

### **For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jose Ernesto Coria, age 57, of Turlock, was convicted on February 22, 2017 of assault with a firearm and criminal threats. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 20, 2013, Coria drove to a liquor store in Turlock. While he was inside the store, the 36-year old victim began talking to Coria's girlfriend who was waiting in the car. When Coria returned, an argument ensued. Before he drove away, Coria threatened to get a gun, come back and shoot the victim.

A short time later, as the victim was walking down the street Coria returned in his car and fired one shot which hit the victim with a grazing wound to the head. The victim contacted Turlock police who later found Coria, still in his vehicle, and arrested him.

Originally charged with attempted murder, Coria was allowed to plead to assault with a firearm and criminal threats based upon his lack of significant prior criminal record and problems finding the victim to testify at jury trial. Both crimes qualify as "strikes" under California's "Three Strikes Law" which may be used to increase any potential sentence if Coria is convicted of a felony crime in the future once he is released from prison.

Upon taking the plea, Judge Rick Distaso immediately sentenced Coria to six years and eight months in state prison.

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