



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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District Attorney

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Chief Deputy District Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
March 2, 2023

### **Oroville Woman Pleads to Hit and Run Which Seriously Injured 5-Year-Old**

**Banessa Santana, 34, of Oroville**, appeared today in Butte County Superior Court and plead no contest to all charges relating to a series of incidents wherein Santana fled from law enforcement and ran her car into the back of another car, seriously injuring a five-year-old boy.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the case stemmed from March 12, 2022, when Santana was spotted driving in Oroville by an Oroville Police officer, who was aware of outstanding warrants for Santana's arrest on a previous probation violation and for cutting off her ankle monitor.

The officer turned on his red lights and siren, but instead of stopping, Santana took the officer on a high-speed chase through a residential area of Thermalito, running stop signs and traveling in excess of 50-60mph. The officer had started to slow down after three miles, as the chase had become too dangerous and Santana had gone over a hill approximately a quarter mile away.

Ramsey said Santana then collided into the rear of another vehicle being driven by a father and his two children, ages eight and five. The father and children were taken to the hospital for treatment. The five-year-old child however suffered major injuries and spent several weeks in the hospital because of the collision. The child is slowly recovering but will have permanent injuries.

Ramsey said Santana fled from her damaged vehicle on foot and remained at large until April 21, 2022, when she was spotted as a passenger in a vehicle by Gridley Police Department. When the car was pulled over by Gridley police, Santana jumped out of the passenger seat of the vehicle and led officers on a foot chase, but was quickly chased down and arrested.

Santana plead as charged to all of the criminal conduct alleged in all her cases after an attempt to gain mental health diversion was rejected by a local judge.

Santana will next appear in court on March 30, 2023, where she could potentially be sentenced to 11 years and 8 months in prison. Santana is currently in custody in the Butte County Jail. She has been denied bail.



Banessa Santana