



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### DUI DRIVER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

A Chico man was sentenced to 10 years in state prison today in Butte County Superior Court for hitting and killing a moped driver in March of this year.

In an emotional sentencing hearing this morning, Judge Jesus Rodriguez sentenced **Chase Jacobsen**, 25, of Chico, to the maximum possible term of 10 years in state prison following Jacobsen's earlier guilty plea to gross vehicular manslaughter while under the influence.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the courtroom was filled with family and friends of the 22-year-old victim, Terry Nilsen, Jr., whom family and friends called "T.J."

Ramsey said T. J.'s mother, father, grandfather, and his grandparents' caregiver all made powerful statements to the judge about how the actions of Jacobsen have impacted their family. T.J.'s grandfather, fighting back tears, told the court how every morning he has to tell his wife, who is suffering the physical and mental effects of a stroke, that their beloved grandson will not be able to come to visit her.

T.J.'s father told the judge that no parent should ever have to say goodbye to their son as he lay dying in a hospital – as he had to. T.J.'s mother expressed her grief of knowing she will never see her son experience having his own family to love. She also shared how she has dedicated her life now to working with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers to try to prevent other families from having to go through what she has.

After hearing the victim-impact statements as well as arguments from Jacobsen's attorney and the district attorney's office, Judge Rodriguez imposed an upper-term sentence in state prison, highlighting the callous actions of the defendant when he chose to drink and drive despite being warned that night by several people not to, as well as fleeing the scene of the crime after he had hit and gravely injured Nilsen.

Ramsey said the charges arose from a March 6, 2022 incident where Jacobsen had been drinking alcohol at a party and chose to drive home even though he admitted he knew he was impaired and should not have been driving. As Jacobsen drove down the Esplanade in the area of the Mud Creek Bridge, Ramsey said he crashed into a moped driven by Nilsen.

Both vehicles were heading in the same direction, and Jacobsen's Ford F-150 truck was speeding some 15 miles per hour over the speed limit. When Jacobsen's truck hit Nilsen's moped, Jacobsen did not stop or call 911. He later said he saw Nilsen's body come up on the hood of his truck. Nilsen's body was found by the side of the road approximately two hundred feet from the initial impact point.

Ramsey said as Jacobsen fled the scene, the moped was still wedged under his vehicle, on fire and throwing sparks on the road for almost 1.7 miles. Investigators also said that Jacobsen stopped at least three times to try to remove the moped from underneath his truck.

