



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Juvenile Involved in 2021 Death at Teichert Ponds Reinstated on Prior Probation**

A Butte County Juvenile Court judge today reinstated juvenile probation for the 17-year-old juvenile involved in the September 2021 shooting of two homeless men at the Chico Teichert Ponds. The sentence came a month after the judge dismissed all charges filed against the juvenile for his involvement in the shooting of one homeless man and the death of another after finding the juvenile's claim of self-defense was not overcome.

Although the murder and attempt-murder charges were all dismissed after several days of testimony, the judge found the juvenile had violated his previous grant of probation by consuming alcohol, being out past curfew, associating with gang members, and being in illegal possession of a firearm.

The juvenile's prior grant of probation was for an attempted robbery that occurred in October 2020 in which he and three other young males approached a victim, brandished two firearms, and demanded his bike. When the victim refused to hand over his bicycle, shots were fired from the group of males. However, witnesses were unable to identify which of the four males fired the shots that evening.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said prosecutors at today's hearing highlighted the juvenile's poor performance on probation leading up to the Teichert Pond shooting in September of 2021 and emphasized the juvenile's poor behavior in Juvenile Hall while awaiting trial. Prosecutors pointed out the juvenile's membership in a gang, his repeated association with firearms, refusal to distance himself from other gang members, and the violent nature of his crime. Prosecutors pointed out that if the juvenile had been lawfully obeying the terms of his probation, the events at Teichert Pond would never have occurred as he would have never had a gun nor been associating with gang members. Prosecutors recommended the juvenile be kept in custody and forced to serve the eight months remaining on his attempt robbery sentence.

The Butte County Probation Department disagreed, recommending the juvenile be placed back on probation and released to the custody of his 20-year-old sister in Chico, where he was living at the time of the shooting. The juvenile's father is in prison and his mother is homeless.

The judge ultimately determined it was in society's best interests to place him back on probation

until the age of 21 and order him into the custody of his godmother in another county rather than remain locally with his sister. Although the judge had absolved the juvenile of the Teichert Pond shooting due to self-defense claims, the judge told the juvenile today that he should still feel shame for what happened that night. The judge said that “what you did that night led to someone’s death” and that the juvenile should remember this for the rest of his life.

The juvenile apologized for his actions stating he understood if “he had been better, it (the shooting) never could have happened.” He also expressed his sorrow toward the victims and their relatives. He told the judge it was his desire to separate from his prior gang affiliations and be a better person.

The judge said he hoped the juvenile was being honest about his desire to leave the gang and said that “actions speak louder than words.” Besides being ordered to stay in out-of-county placement with the godmother, the judge ordered him to wear a GPS ankle monitor; to go to school; to be subject to search and testing for alcohol and drugs; to attend counseling; to follow all probation officers’ directives; and to be subject to a 3:00 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew. The judge warned any failures on probation would put the juvenile back in custody to serve the remainder of his sentence.