



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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16-Year-old Oroville Minor Admits Involuntary Manslaughter

The 16-year-old Oroville youth who accidentally shot and killed his 13-year-old friend while both were in a stolen car was in juvenile court yesterday and admitted guilt to a charge of involuntary manslaughter with the personal use of a firearm.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the teenager and three other boys, ages 13, 14, and 16, were joyriding in a stolen car with a handgun during the early morning hours of July 18, 2023. All had been playing with the firearm and, during the course of the evening, one of them had loaded the gun with ammunition. The handgun was being handled by the shooter in the back-passenger seat of the stolen vehicle when the weapon discharged. The 13-year-old victim, Amadeus Miller-Ramos, who was in the front passenger seat, was struck once in the back by a bullet. Ramos died as a result of the gunshot wound. The shooter claimed he did not know the weapon was loaded at the time it discharged.

After the shooting, the victim's body was placed in a field in Thermalito near the intersection of 18th Street and Tehama Avenue where he was eventually found. The teenagers in the vehicle all gave differing stories as to who participated in the disposal of the victim's body. The Butte County Sheriff's Office is continuing to investigate the other surviving boys concerning their culpability for other crimes committed in the early morning hours just before the 13-year-old's death.

Ramsey noted the nine-millimeter semi-automatic pistol believed used in this tragedy was stolen from a separate vehicle in the Oroville area the night before the shooting. The gun was later turned into the sheriff's office through a confidential source after the shooting.

Ramsey said, "This case is a sad reminder to us all that firearms are dangerous and should always be handled with care. Gun owners should make sure their weapons are stored safely to ensure that minors do not have easy access to them."

The teenage shooter will next appear at the Butte County Juvenile Court on September 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. for sentencing. He continues to remain in custody at Butte County Juvenile Hall pending this next hearing.