



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### JURY CONVICTS DANGEROUS FELON OF ATTEMPTED MURDER DESPITE HIS ATTEMPTS TO DISSUADE WITNESSES AT HIS TRIAL

An Oroville man was convicted today by a Butte County jury of attempted murder, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, as well as being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The jury also found numerous special allegations to be true.

Peter Lee Flaming, 53, was found guilty today of all charges related to an incident in March of this year when he intentionally shot a friend multiple times, causing serious injuries.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the jury, composed evenly of six men and six women, heard four days of evidence last week but needed less than two hours to return guilty verdicts on all charges.

Ramsey said this case began last March when Butte County Sheriff's deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle crash in the Thermalito area. When they arrived, deputies found the victim, 47, in the driver's seat of the crashed vehicle, bleeding profusely from three gunshot wounds. The victim told deputies he had been shot at a different location and drove away until he lost control of his vehicle. Deputies were able to administer life-saving measures until medical personnel arrived and transported the victim to the hospital, where he received emergency surgery and ultimately recovered.

Deputies learned in their investigation that the person who shot the victim was Flaming, a friend of the victim's and that Flaming had shot the victim as the victim was exiting a vehicle that he slept in on Flaming's property in Thermalito. Deputies responded to Flaming's residence, but Flaming had fled the area. Later, Flaming was arrested without incident when he returned to his house and a good Samaritan reported seeing him.

Ramsey said the evidence presented at the trial by Deputy District Attorney Mike Tufaro showed Flaming had an ongoing disagreement with the victim over a mutual female friend, and on the morning of March 19, 2023, he exited his house and shot the victim three times. Flaming then fled the area. The gun was never recovered.

Ramsey said the jury also heard evidence outlining the motive for the shooting, as well as circumstances of the crime that proved Flaming did not merely intend to hurt or scare his friend,

but intended to kill him. Ramsey said the evidence proved to the jury that Flaming committed the attempted murder willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation, which is the most serious form of attempted murder.

Ramsey said that while preparing for the trial, Deputy District Attorney Tufaro and law enforcement learned Flaming, who was in Butte County Jail, had been attempting with the help of an outside accomplice to dissuade both the victim and a key witness from attending court and testifying. This included Flaming mailing the “paperwork” from his case to the accomplice, who was then directed by Flaming to “put it out on the street” that the victim and witness were “snitches.”

Ramsey explained Tufaro presented evidence of this attempt to interfere with the court process, which helped the jury understand the initial hesitancy of the victim and witness to cooperate with law enforcement and come to court.

Ramsey said his office filed additional charges against Mr. Flaming and his co-conspirator, Mark Steven Kelley, Jr., 37, also of Oroville, for dissuading witnesses.

Flaming will next appear in court on August 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. for a preliminary hearing on his dissuading case, while Kelley will appear on August 16, 2023 for further arraignment.

Flaming will also appear for sentencing in the attempted murder case on September 6, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., where he faces a minimum of 25 years to life in prison based not only on his new attempted murder conviction but his long history of felony assaults, domestic violence and weapons convictions.



**Peter Flaming**