



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### MAN ENTERS PLEA IN BIZARRE ESPLANADE ASSAULT WITH MOTOR VEHICLE

In Butte County Superior Court today a Chico man admitted assaulting an unsuspecting victim with his truck. Daniel Mason Clark, 49, pleaded no contest to a count of felony assault with a motor vehicle.

The charge stemmed from an April 15, 2023 incident where a 39-year-old male victim was walking alongside the Esplanade near Lassen Avenue when a 1970 Ford Ranger driven by Clark suddenly turned toward the victim striking his right foot. Fortunately, the victim was not seriously injured having suffered a few small abrasions to his foot. The victim ran to a nearby office parking lot and hid behind a concrete barrier where he was able to call 911.

Clark continued pursuing the victim into the parking lot with the truck. The victim then ran across the street and Clark then crashed his truck into a parked vehicle. Clark exited his truck, armed himself with a chain and rocks, and continued chasing the victim on foot.

Chico police arrived and detained Clark. Clark first told the officers it was the victim who had attempted to carjack him so he retaliated. Clark changed his story when officers told him there were many surveillance cameras and witnesses in the area. Clark then told officers he was seeking to injure the victim for an incident at a recent party that he believed involved the victim. The victim informed officers he had never met Clark before.

Upon arrest, Clark was found to possess methamphetamine and admitted to ingesting the drug that morning. Officers conducted a drug evaluation on the scene and determined Clark had not been driving under the influence.

Clark was facing a preliminary hearing this morning when he changed his mind about going forward with the hearing and entered his plea. He had also previously attempted to petition the court for mental health diversion on the charge but withdrew that petition as part of his plea.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey noted that although the motive behind this bizarre assault remains unclear, the severity and the dangerousness of the incident demanded severe consequences.

Clark faces four years in state prison when he is sentenced on September 27, 2023. Because Clark used a motor vehicle in the assault, he is subject to a lifetime revocation of his driving privileges. Assault with a motor vehicle also constitutes a "strike" under California's three-strikes law.

Clark remains in custody at Butte County Jail on \$65,000 bail.



Daniel Mason Clark