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PRESS RELEASE

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Oroville Man Convicted of Baseball Bat Assault - Faces Life Sentence

A Butte County Superior Court jury today convicted an Oroville man for felony assault with a baseball bat causing great bodily injury.

David Randall Gonzales, 42, of Oroville, faces a life sentence because of this conviction.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey stated that the charges stemmed from a July 17, 2020 assault, where Gonzales struck a former brother-in-law numerous times with a wooden baseball bat after an argument. The brother-in-law, age 52, received several serious injuries including a head laceration that required over 20 staples, as well as other lacerations and a bone fracture to his left leg. The assault occurred at the brother-in-law's home in front of his children, 5- and 7-years-old.

After the assault, Butte County Sheriff's deputies contacted Gonzales at his home. Gonzales denied to the deputies that he was at the victim's house at the time of the assault. During his trial, Deputy District Attorney Erika Romo pointed out that Gonzales was wearing an ankle monitor as the result of his prior assault convictions. That ankle monitor placed Gonzales at the victim's house at the time of the assault.

Gonzales took the stand during the trial and testified that the victim assaulted him first and Gonzales was only defending himself. Romo cross-examined Gonzales, pointing out that this self-defense claim came up for the first time at trial, and that Gonzales never told the deputies this story when first contacted.

The jury was out less than four hours before returning their guilty verdict.

After the jury verdict, Judge Jesus Rodriguez made a finding that Gonzales was previously convicted of prior felonies of child molest in Santa Clara County; felony assault in Siskiyou County; felony battery and felony threats in Butte County. These are considered felony strikes under California law.

Judge Rodriguez set the case for sentencing on November 3, 2021. Gonzales remains in custody in Butte County Jail with no bail. Because of his prior violent strikes, Gonzales is facing 48 years to life.

