

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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Lakewood Man Charged with Killing Brother

A 44-year-old man accused of fatally shooting his brother was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Brandon Van Heyningen (dob 10/22/70) of Lakewood has been charged with one count of murder in case VA138740.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon in Department 5 at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Bellflower Branch.

The charging document includes a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury and death.

Prosecutors said on March 31 Brandon Van Heyningen reportedly got into a verbal altercation with his brother, Richard Van Heyningen, 47, in Lakewood.

During the fight, Brandon Van Heyningen was purportedly driving his car, while Richard Van Heyningen was on a bike.

At some point, Brandon Van Heyningen reportedly exited his vehicle and fatally shot his brother, prosecutors said.

Soon after the shooting, authorities were called and the defendant was arrested in connection with his brother's death.

If convicted as charged, Brandon Van Heyningen faces a maximum sentence of 50 years to life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.