

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Not Guilty to Killing Cousin

A Lake Elsinore man accused of stabbing his cousin to death pleaded not guilty this afternoon, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Bryant Keith Underwood (dob 3/21/85) was arraigned on one count of murder in case NA098831. The felony complaint includes a special allegation that Underwood personally used deadly and dangerous weapons, knives, in the commission of the crime.

The defendant appeared before Judge Laura Laesecke at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach. His bail was set at \$1.02 million.

Prosecutors said in the early morning of April 8, police received 911 calls regarding strange noises coming from victim Ahkeem Johnson's Long Beach apartment.

Authorities arrived on the scene and found Johnson in his home with multiple stab wounds to his torso. The 27-year-old victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police arrested the defendant near the scene and he was booked on suspicion of murder.

Underwood's next court date is scheduled for April 17 for a pre-hearing conference at the Long Beach Courthouse in Department 1. If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Long Beach Police 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 73,194 felony defendants and 113,854 misdemeanor defendants.