

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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**South Gate Man Sentenced to Prison
for Killing Teenage Girlfriend**

A 21-year-old man was sentenced today to more than 40 years to life in state prison for fatally stabbing his teenage girlfriend and assaulting a group of individuals who tried to come to her aid, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Abraham Lopez of South Gate was convicted by a jury on March 4 of 11 counts: one count of first-degree murder, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, three counts of assault upon a peace officer, two counts of weapons on school grounds, two counts of resisting executive officer and one count of false imprisonment in case VA121880.

Deputy District Attorney Brandon K. Wong and Don Syn, who co-prosecuted the case, said at the time of the crime, victim Cindi Santana, 17, had just ended a three-year relationship with Lopez.

On Sept. 30, 2011, Lopez went to Santana's high school and forced her to speak with him, prosecutors said. During the confrontation, Santana flagged down the school dean, at which point Lopez put the victim into a choke hold, prosecutors added.

Other high school students witnessed what was occurring, and with the assistance of the dean, struggled with Lopez to release Santana. Prosecutors said Lopez then pulled out a knife, slashed the dean, stabbed another student and then finally stabbed Santana twice in the back.

Following the stabbing, Lopez was subdued by school police and faculty staff, and subsequently arrested.

After the assault, Santana was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, but ultimately succumbed to her injuries.

The case was 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.