

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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June 28, 2017

Compton Man Charged with Killing Wife

A 39-year-old man pleaded not guilty today to murdering his wife in her family's Compton home, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Luis Ernesto Villanueva (dob 5/8/78) has been charged with one count of murder in case TA143607. At today's arraignment, the defendant's bail was set at \$2 million.

Deputy District Attorney Abigail Baron of the Victim Impact Program, who is assigned to the case, said Villanueva and his wife, Grecia Veronica Ayala, lived in the back house of Ayala's parents' home in the 12800 block of South Stoneacre Avenue in Compton.

In the early morning of June 23, Villanueva allegedly went to the front house and told the victim's family to go to the back house where he revealed Ayala's body wrapped in a comforter, the prosecutor said.

Authorities were called and the victim was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced dead, according to the prosecutor. Following the incident, Villanueva was arrested and taken into custody.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court on July 12 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department D of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Compton Branch.

If convicted as charged, Villanueva faces a possible maximum sentence of 25 years to life in state prison.

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

[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 protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.