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NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Pleads to Killing Grandmother, Kidnapping

A Bell woman entered a no contest plea today for killing her 64-year-old grandmother and then fleeing to Mexico with her children, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Robert Villa said Sarah Paula Montoya (dob 10/1/91) entered the plea to one count of voluntary manslaughter and three counts of kidnapping.

Montoya was immediately sentenced to 26 years in state prison.

On July 18, 2016, the defendant strangled Paula Montoya. The victim's body was found three days later in her bathroom, wrapped in plastic and a blanket, by Los Angeles County sheriff deputies conducting a welfare check, according to court testimony.

Sarah Montoya then fled the country with her three children, ages 1 to 9 years old, without the father's permission, the prosecutor said. According to evidence presented in court, the defendant killed her grandmother because the victim did not want her or her boyfriend to be at her house anymore.

The case was 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.