

Jackie Lacey
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NEWS RELEASE

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Montebello Man Pleads to Killing Wife, Dumping Body in Car

A Montebello father charged with murdering his wife and taking off with his children in 2014 prompting a statewide Amber Alert pleaded guilty today to her murder and other charges, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Daniel Diego Perez, 45, pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of his 39-year-old wife, Erica. Her body was discovered Dec. 10, 2014, stuffed in the trunk of a car that was parked near the family's Montebello home, said Deputy District Attorney Miji Vellakkattel with the Family Violence Division who prosecuted the case.

Perez also pleaded guilty to two counts of child abuse for endangering two of his sons during a standoff following a pursuit that ended near Santee. The boys were 6 and 8 at the time, Vellakkattel said.

Perez was sentenced by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Leslie Swain to 15 years to life in prison plus seven years, four months for the child abuse charges.

[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.