

# Jackie Lacey

District Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

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## Man Admits to Attempted Murder of Elderly Woman in Random Knife Attack

A man admitted today to trying to kill an elderly woman with a knife in a random and unprovoked attack, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Christian James (dob 4/3/92) of Los Angeles pleaded no contest to premeditated attempted murder in a negotiated plea agreement. He also admitted allegations of causing great bodily injury, using a deadly and dangerous weapon, and attacking a person over the age of 65.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jose I. Sandoval immediately sentenced James to seven years to life in state prison.

At about 11:30 a.m. on May 24, 2017, James approached a pedestrian who he didn't know on a walkway near Vermont Avenue and West 20<sup>th</sup> Street in Los Angeles' Pico-Union neighborhood. Walking up to the 75-year-old victim from behind, he stabbed her 14 times in the face, neck and hands with a 2½-inch blade as she tried to protect herself, according to court testimony.

James fled the scene but was arrested shortly after with the help of a description from witnesses.

Deputy District Attorney Scott Dominguez of the Elder Abuse Section prosecuted case BA457680.

Los Angeles Police Department, Olympic Division, investigated the case.

### [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.