

Jackie Lacey
District Attorney
<http://da.lacounty.gov>



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Sept. 28, 2017

**Man Charged with Attempting to Kill
Woman in Her Los Angeles Home**

A 21-year-old man pleaded not guilty yesterday to breaking into an elderly woman's home, stealing her personal property and trying to strangle her, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

William Morales (dob 8/16/96) of Los Angeles has been charged with three felony counts in case VA145916: attempted murder, first-degree burglary and first-degree residential robbery.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim, who was 70 years of age and older. Additionally, the charging document alleges that the defendant committed a violent crime against a vulnerable victim.

At Wednesday's arraignment, bail was set at \$1.05 million.

On the night of Aug. 6, an 84-year-old woman was awakened by noise in her Los Angeles home, prosecutors said. The woman got up from bed and started walking around her home when she reportedly saw Morales going through her bedroom drawers, according to prosecutors.

As the elderly woman tried to walk away, the defendant allegedly caught up to her and attempted to strangle the victim while simultaneously punching her, prosecutors added. The woman lost consciousness and the defendant reportedly fled the scene with some of the victim's personal items, prosecutors said.

The victim's sister also was awakened by noise in the home and went to see what was going on when she found the elderly woman unconscious. Authorities were called and the 84-year-old woman was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, according to prosecutors.

Less than two weeks after the incident, authorities arrested Morales in connection with the incident.

The defendant is scheduled to return to court on Oct. 11 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department J of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

If convicted as charged, Morales faces a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison.

The 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.