



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

12/10/19

**PORTERVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2017
ATTEMPTED MURDERS**

Today in Department 17 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Michael Sheltzer sentenced Harry Sprague, age 77, to 64 years-to-life in prison for the 2017 attempted murder of two people at a Porterville mobile home park.

On November 8, 2019, a jury found Sprague to be sane during the commission of the crime. Prior to the sanity trial, Sprague pleaded no contest on October 18, 2019 to two counts of premeditated, willful, and deliberate attempted murder with the special allegation of use of a firearm resulting in great bodily injury. Under California law, the plea coupled with a sanity verdict constitutes a conviction.

Just after 7:00 pm on July 17, 2017, Sprague shot an adult male and female after an argument over use of the mobile home park's community pool, of which Sprague was a resident. Witness accounts and surveillance showed Sprague retrieving a .357 revolver from a backpack and shooting at the couple. The male victim was hit once in the shoulder while the female victim was struck in the nose. Sprague was located next to his trailer shortly after and taken into custody. The victims were taken to Kaweah Delta Hospital where they recovered from their injuries.

The case was prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Jessica Weatherly and was investigated by the Porterville Police Department.

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