

TULARE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DISTRICT  
PORTERVILLE DIVISION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff,

DA No. 26-0020718

vs.

Court No.

JOE PRIETO DOB: 02/23/1994  
AKA: JOE ARTHUR PREIETO DOB: 02/23/1994

**FELONY COMPLAINT**

Defendant(s).

The undersigned is informed and believes that:

**COUNT 1**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of CARJACKING, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 215(A), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who did unlawfully and by means of force and fear take a motor vehicle in the possession of DR & NJK, from his person and immediate presence, and from the person and immediate presence of a passenger of said motor vehicle, against the will and with the intent to permanently and temporarily deprive DR & NJK of possession of said motor vehicle.

"NOTICE: The above offense is a serious felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 1192.7(c) and a violent felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 667.5(c)."

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - GREAT BODILY INJURY**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-5 that the above offense(s) involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, and callousness, within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(1).

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - ARMED WITH OR USE OF A WEAPON**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-2 that the defendant(s) JOE PRIETO was armed with and used a weapon at the time of the commission of the above offense(s), within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(2).

**COUNT 2**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of KIDNAPPING, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 207(A), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who did unlawfully, forcibly and by instilling fear, steal, take, hold, detain and arrest DR in Tulare County, California, and did take the said DR into another country, state, county and another part of Tulare County.

"NOTICE: The above offense is a serious felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 1192.7(c) and a violent felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 667.5(c)."

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - GREAT BODILY INJURY**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-5 that the above offense(s) involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, and callousness, within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(1).

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - ARMED WITH OR USE OF A WEAPON**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-2 that the defendant(s) JOE PRIETO was armed with and used a weapon at the time of the commission of the above offense(s), within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(2).

**COUNT 3**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 245(A)(1), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who did willfully and unlawfully commit an assault upon NJK with a deadly weapon, to wit, MOTOR VEHICLE – AMBULANCE.

"NOTICE: The above offense is a serious felony within the meaning of Penal Code section 1192.7(c)."

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - GREAT BODILY INJURY**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-5 that the above offense(s) involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, and callousness, within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(1).

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - ARMED WITH OR USE OF A WEAPON**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-2 that the defendant(s) JOE PRIETO was armed with and used a weapon at the time of the commission of the above offense(s), within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(2).

**COUNT 4**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of FLEEING A PURSUING PEACE OFFICER'S MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE DRIVING RECKLESSLY, in violation of VEHICLE CODE SECTION 2800.2(a), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who while driving a motor vehicle in a willful and/or wanton disregard for the safety of persons, and with the intent to evade, willfully fled and/or attempted to elude a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle.

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - GREAT BODILY INJURY**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-5 that the above offense(s) involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, and callousness, within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(1).

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - ARMED WITH OR USE OF A WEAPON**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-2 that the defendant(s) JOE PRIETO was armed with and used a weapon at the time of the commission of the above offense(s), within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(2).

**COUNT 5**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of DRIVING OR TAKING A VEHICLE WITHOUT CONSENT, in violation of VEHICLE CODE SECTION 10851(A), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who did take a vehicle, exceeding nine hundred and fifty dollars in value, to wit: AMBULANCE, without the consent of the owner, Life Star, and with the intent to deprive the owner of title and possession of the vehicle.

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - GREAT BODILY INJURY**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-5 that the above offense(s) involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, and other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, and callousness, within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(1).

**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE - ARMED WITH OR USE OF A WEAPON**

It is further alleged as to count(s) 1-2 that the defendant(s) JOE PRIETO was armed with and used a weapon at the time of the commission of the above offense(s), within the meaning of California Rules of Court Rule 4.421(a)(2).

**COUNT 6**

On or about June 17, 2026, in the County of Tulare, the crime of RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY, MOTOR VEHICLE, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 496D(A), a Felony, was committed by JOE PRIETO, who did unlawfully buy and receive AMBULANCE that was stolen and had been obtained in a manner constituting theft and extortion, knowing the property to be stolen and obtained, and did conceal, sell, withhold, and aid in concealing, selling and withholding said property.

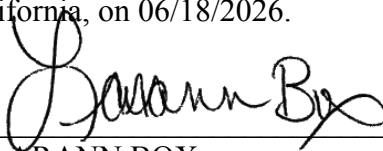
\* \* \* \* \*

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 1054.5(b), the People are hereby informally requesting that defense counsel provide discovery to the People as required by Penal Code Section 1054.3.

Pursuant to People v. Cunningham, the People hereby put the defendant on notice that the aggravated sentence may be sought in this case.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT THIS COMPLAINT CONSISTS OF 6 COUNT(S).

Executed at PORTERVILLE DIVISION, California, on 06/18/2026.



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LARANN BOX  
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Agency: TULARE POLICE DEPARTMENT

<u>DEFENDANT NAME</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>RACE</u>	<u>HGT</u>	<u>WGT</u>	<u>EYES</u>	<u>HAIR</u>	<u>COURT DATE</u>	<u>INTAKE STATUS</u>
Joe Prieto	M	H	5'07	140	Brown	Black	06/19/26	IC

COMPLAINT PROCESSED BY: AC