



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

9/23/15

**TULARE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR MURDER**

On September 22, 2015 in Department 5 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Joseph Kalashian sentenced James Timothy Silas, Jr., age 20, from Tulare, to 50 years to life in state prison for murder. On July 15, 2015 Silas pled guilty to one count of murder with the special allegation of inflicting great bodily injury or death using a firearm.

On the night of January 8, 2014, Silas met the adult male victim and his companion in a Visalia park for a marijuana transaction. After viewing the marijuana in the companion's car trunk, Silas declared "This is a robbery!" and shot the victim in the head. The victim's companion fled on foot, but returned shortly thereafter to aid police in the investigation.

Silas was arrested on June 25, 2014 in Lubbock, Texas after a traffic stop. After being interviewed by Visalia Police Department detectives, Silas was extradited back to Tulare County.

"I thank the Visalia Police Department for their diligence in bringing this case back to Tulare County where justice could be served," said District Attorney Tim Ward.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Mitch Niayesh and investigated by Detective Chris Jennings of the Visalia Police Department.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare  
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