



PRESS RELEASE

55 Year Sentence for Fatal Shooting March 8, 2017

Bryan, TX – Joe Becerra, 53, of Bryan, was sentenced to 55 years in prison today after a jury convicted him in connection with the shooting death of Jose Guardado in Bryan in 2014.

Becerra was a guest at a celebration at Guardado's home located at 1312 Groesbeck on May 24, 2014. Throughout that day, the Defendant and other members of his family were drinking in the back yard of the house. That evening, Becerra became angry at Guardado over a family dispute and punched Guardado, starting a brief physical struggle. Other family members broke up the fight but then left the home, leaving Guardado, Becerra, and one of Guardado's friends at the home.

Minutes later, neighbors heard a gunshot and saw Becerra immediately leave the scene on foot. Guardado's friend then came to neighbors and asked them to call 911. Bryan Police officers responded and found Becerra an hour later, approximately half a mile away. Becerra's gun was never located, but Bryan Detectives took samples from Becerra's hands that, upon analysis by the DPS Crime Lab in Austin, showed the presence of gunshot residue. Guardado died from a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Guardado's friend who witnessed the shooting was later deported to Mexico, making him unavailable to testify. As a result, prosecutors elected to try Becerra for Unlawful possession of a Firearm by a Felon. Because of Becerra's criminal history, that charge carried the same punishment range that Murder would have.

During the trial, prosecutors called Becerra's sister and niece who testified that they heard Becerra ask his wife for his gun earlier that day.





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The jury also found that Becerra used his gun as a deadly weapon. Judge J.D. Langley assessed Becerra's sentence.

Becerra has prior convictions for Indecency with a Child, Failure to Register as a Sex Offender, Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, and Possession of Marijuana.

Becerra must serve at least half of his 55 year sentence before he is eligible for parole.

The case was investigated by officers from the Bryan Police Department and the Brazos County District Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Brazos County Assistant District Attorneys, Ryan Calvert and Ekua Assabill.

