

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



KELLY A. DUNCAN
Assistant District Attorney
HEATHER TRAPNELL
Chief Deputy District Attorney
CASEY NELSON
Chief Deputy District Attorney
MEGAN RHEINSCHILD
Victim-Witness Assistance Program
Director
JENNIFER KARAPETIAN
Chief Deputy District Attorney
KRISTINA PERKINS
Chief Investigator
MICHAEL SODERMAN
Chief Financial & Administrative
Officer

**District Attorney's Cannabis Enforcement Prosecution Program Quarterly Update
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Q1 & Q2 (July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office prosecutes cannabis-related offenses and provides investigative support for such matters throughout the County. Recent staffing changes within the Sheriff's Office cannabis compliance team have prompted a shift in investigative emphasis toward cases that may involve additional narcotics violations and white-collar crime components requiring specialized expertise.

Over the past six months, the assigned District Attorney Investigator has focused on professional development in financial and investment fraud investigations to better support these evolving case types. This training has strengthened his proficiency in financial crime investigations, enhancing his ability to analyze financial transactions and detect complex offenses, including money laundering, fraud, and sophisticated investment schemes.

The District Attorney's Office is limited in the information that can be disclosed regarding cases that are pending final adjudication or have reached final resolution. However, the following section provides a summary of recent cases in which the Office has undertaken prosecutorial and investigative action.

The People v. Judd Edelstein, SBSC No. 25CR01678

Mr. Edelstein was charged with maintaining an illegal cannabis grow resulting in a felony violation of Health and Safety Code section 11358(d)(3)(C) due to accompanying Fish and Game Code violations. Mr. Edelstein was also charged with additional offenses including Sale of Marijuana Across State Lines, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D).

The case resolved through a plea to a felony violation of Health and Safety Code section 11358(a)(3)(C). Sentencing was continued for one year. If the defendant pays all fines and restitution and commits no further illegal cannabis sales during the year, the court will reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor.

The defendant agreed to forfeit all seized funds and property as part of the plea agreement.

The People v. Alexis Vazquez-Guzman, SBSC No. 25CR03093

Mr. Vazquez-Guzman was charged with Possession of Marijuana for Sale Related to the Sale to Minors, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(c)(3).

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: (805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Tel: (805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
Tel: (805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732

The case resolved with a plea as charged, as a felony, with probation and asset forfeiture totaling \$37,597. Sentencing was continued for one year. If the defendant commits no new criminal offenses, including any cannabis-related sales, the court will reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor.

Despite the seriousness of the charge, this disposition was appropriate given the difficulty in securing parental consent for the minor victims to cooperate with the prosecution.

The People v. Jordan and Jonathan Alvarez Tostado Rodriguez, SBSC No. 24CR06375

The defendants in this case were charged with a number of crimes, both individual and separately, including Sale of Marijuana Across State Lines in violation of HS 11360(a)(3)(D), as well as Money Laundering, in violation of Penal Code (PC) 186.10(a)(1).

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. John Wayne Wyatt and Salvador Castanos, SBSC No. 25CR04730

Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Castanos are charged with Manufacture of Honey Oil in violation of HS 11379.6, as well as a conspiracy to commit the same. Additionally, Mr. Wyatt is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in violation of PC 29800

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Angela Nicole Gonzales, SBSC No. 25CR02127

Ms. Gonzales is charged with Transporting for Sale outside the state over 31 pounds of cannabis, in violation of HS 11360(a)(3)(D). T

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Kyle Joshua Price, SBSC No. 25CR02127

Mr. Price is charged with multiple felony offenses, including Possession of Marijuana for Sale (Health and Safety Code section 11359(b)), Possession of a Controlled Substance (Health and Safety Code section 11377(a)), Possession of Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia in a Jail Facility (Penal Code section 4573.8), Grand Theft of Personal Property (Penal Code section 487(a)), and Indecent Exposure (Penal Code section 314(1)).

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

The People v. Paul Christopher Ruiz, SBSC No. 25CR01769

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: (805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Tel: (805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
Tel: (805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732

Mr. Ruiz is charged with Sale or Transportation of More Than 28.5 Grams of Marijuana or More Than 4 Grams of Concentrated Cannabis, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D), and Possession of Marijuana for Sale, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(b).

The case remains open with continued action by the District Attorney's Office.

Juvenile Matter SBSC No. 25CR02456

In this juvenile matter, the minor was charged with multiple offenses, including Adult Using a Minor Under the Age of 14 (Health and Safety Code section 11361(a)), Possession of Cannabis for Sale by a Minor Under 18 (Health and Safety Code section 11359(a)), Sale or Furnishing of Marijuana to a Minor (Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(C)), and Furnishing Cannabis to a Minor 14 Years or Older (Health and Safety Code section 11361(b)).

This case resolved during Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Q2.

People v. Apollinar Ordazsoriano SBSC No. 25CR01970

Mr. Ordazsoriano was charged with Sale or Transportation of More Than 28.5 Grams of Marijuana or More Than 4 Grams of Concentrated Cannabis, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D), and Possession of Marijuana for Sale, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11359(b).

Mr. Ordazsoriano pled guilty to Count 1, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11360(a)(3)(D), and was sentenced to three years in state prison, to run concurrently with SBSC No. 24CR00629.

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: (805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Tel: (805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
Tel: (805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732