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For Immediate Release:

Castle Rock Man Found Man Guilty of Second-Degree Murder in Deadly Parking Lot Shooting

**Miguel Angel Mercado shot two people after fist fight
outside of the Pines at Castle Rock apartments**

Castle Rock, CO - May 16th, 2025. A Douglas County jury found 23-year-old Miguel Angel Mercado guilty of two counts of second-degree murder, and two counts of attempted 2nd degree murder for the fatal shooting of 23-year-old Daniel Vilchis Mercado. (No relation.) The shooting happened November 29, 2022, after a confrontation outside of the Pines at Castle Rock Apartments in Castle Rock.

Castle Rock Police say the incident stemmed from an ongoing personal dispute. Vilchis Mercado, from Denver, had accused Miguel's roommate of being involved with Vilchis' girlfriend. The confrontation escalated when the parties met in the parking lot on Castlegate Drive West, where a fistfight broke out. During the altercation, Miguel Mercado pulled a gun and opened fire, killing Vilchis Mercado and seriously wounding another man.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh praised the jury's rejection of the defendant's claim of self-defense. "In Douglas County you cannot use a gun in someone else's fist fight. This verdict sends a strong message that we will hold offenders accountable and seek justice for victims- regardless of the circumstances."

Deputy DA Abby Hegarty also emphasized the 23rd judicial District Attorney’s Office commitment to justice. “As DA George Brauchler has said many times, we will fight to make sure criminals in Douglas County will always be held accountable.”

Mercado will be sentenced July 18th. He faces 16-48 years in prison.

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