



MEDIA CONTACT:

Tom Mustin
Media Relations Director
23rd Judicial District
Cell: 303-358-9375
tmustin@coda23.gov

Castle Rock Man Will Spend 60 Years in Prison after Deadly Parking Lot Shooting

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

Castle Rock, CO- July 18, 2025. A 23-year-old Castle Rock man will spend 60 years in prison following his conviction in a fatal shooting outside of the Pines at Castle Rock Apartments in Castle Rock.

In May, a Douglas County jury found Miguel Angel Mercado guilty of two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of attempted 2nd degree murder for the November 29, 2022, shooting of 23-year-old Daniel Vilchis Mercado of Denver. (The two men are not related.)

Castle Rock Police say Vilchis Mercado had accused Miguel's roommate of being involved with Vilchis' girlfriend. The confrontation escalated when the parties met in the parking lot on Castle 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.

"This case truly required an 'all hands on deck' approach," said Castle Rock Police Chief Jack Cauley. "Team members from every division stepped up and played a vital role in this investigation. Achieving this outcome would not have been possible without their dedication and professionalism, as well as our partnership with the District Attorney's Office."

District Attorney George Brauchler also praised the determined efforts of Castle Rock Police, Senior Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh, and Deputy DA Abby Hegarty. "The jury quickly and decisively dismissed the specious claim of self-defense by the murderer. Bringing a gun to

a fistfight screams ‘gutless act of revenge.’ Law enforcement in the 23rd Judicial District-like Castle Rock PD- will continue to prioritize the investigation and apprehension of violent crime. Our collective goal will be to hold murderers accountable at the highest and most appropriate level. Someday this murderer will be free again. His victim and those who love him will never be free of this horrific crime.”

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