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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Attacking Wife with Chainsaw in Whittier

A 32-year-old man has been charged with nearly killing his spouse in front of their three children last week, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Alejandro Villegas Alvarez (dob 5/4/86) has been charged with seven counts in case VA148199: one count each of attempted murder, aggravated mayhem, driving or taking a vehicle without consent, hit-and-run driving resulting in property damage and three counts of child abuse.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the victim under circumstances involving domestic violence. Moreover, the charging document alleges that Alvarez personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a chainsaw, during the commission of the assault.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Bellflower Branch. Prosecutors are asking that bail be set at \$1.38 million.

Deputy District Attorney Chad Gillette of the Victim Impact Program is assigned to the case.

Prosecutors said in the afternoon of July 11, Alvarez allegedly attacked his wife with a chainsaw in front of their three children in the 7700 block of Milton Avenue in Whittier.

Following the assault, the defendant reportedly fled the area in his wife's vehicle, prosecutors added. Authorities arrived at the scene of the attack and the victim was taken to the hospital for medical treatment, according to prosecutors.

While Alvarez was reportedly on the run, he allegedly struck another car in Santa Fe Springs and fled the scene of the collision before stealing another vehicle that was idling nearby, prosecutors added. A day after the attack, the defendant was located in the city of Chula Vista and taken into custody.

If convicted as charged, Alvarez faces a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison.

The domestic violence case is being investigated by the Whittier Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.