



# FactSheet

## Valenzuela Lawsuit

- **What:** lawsuit over 2016 in-custody death of 32-year-old Fermin Vincent Valenzuela Jr.
- **Case name:** Valenzuela v. City of Anaheim
- **Court:** U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles
- **Judge:** Cormac J. Carney
- **Parties:**
  - **Defendants:** City of Anaheim, Officers Woojin Jun and Daniel Wolfe, Sgt. Daniel Gonzalez
  - **Plaintiff:** two minor children of Fermin Vincent Valenzuela
- **Lawyers:**
  - **Moses Johnson**, assistant city attorney, city of Anaheim
  - **Steven J. Rothans**, outside counsel, city of Anaheim, Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont LLP
  - **Jill Williams**, outside counsel, city of Anaheim, Carpenter, Rothans & Dumont LLP
  - **Dale Galipo**, Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo, Woodland Hills
  - **Garo Mardirossian**, Law Offices of Dale K. Galipo, Woodland Hills
- **Jury:** Eight members, five men, three women
- **Trial start:** Nov. 12, 2019
- **Closing Arguments:** Nov. 18, 2019
- **Verdict:** Nov. 18, jury finding of unreasonable force, negligence
- **Damages verdict:** Nov. 20, \$13.2 million
  - **\$11.4 million**, son
  - **\$1.8 million**, daughter



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- **Incident:** July 2, 2016, around 9:15 a.m.
  - Anaheim Police receive 911 call from woman reporting her mother was being followed home by a man who was still pacing in front of their home
  - Officers Jun and Wolfe dispatched to Broadway Street and Magnolia Avenue
  - Valenzuela enters laundromat
  - Officers follow, activate body-worn cameras
  - Officers approach, hear sound of glass breaking
  - Officer Wolfe speaks to Valenzuela, notices blood on his hand and screwdriver in his bag
  - Officer Wolfe orders Valenzuela to stop and put his hands behind his back, Valenzuela does not comply
  - Officers attempt to detain, Valenzuela fights, struggle ensues
  - Valenzuela flees, Wolfe uses Taser with no effect
  - Officers follow Valenzuela across the street as he continues to flee
  - Sgt. Daniel Gonzalez arrives and assists with verbal commands as Officers Wolfe and Jun attempt to subdue Valenzuela with carotid
  - Officers are able to handcuff Valenzuela, becomes unresponsive
  - Officers begin CPR, paramedics arrive and transport to hospital
  - Valenzuela has three heart attacks while at hospital
  - Valenzuela declared brain dead July 10, 2016 at hospital