Bilderback Pleads Guilty To Voluntary Manslaughter

A Calaveras County man has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of his son. Just hours before the start of his murder trial, David Bilderback accepted a plea deal and will face 6 to 16 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter, with an enhancement for use of a firearm. Bilderback was scheduled to stand trial Wednesday in Calaveras County Superior Court. According to Deputy District Attorney Brad Jones, Bilderback’s decision was made after the victim’s mother agreed to drop the other charges of murder, assault with a firearm, gross negligence in discharging a firearm and several enhancements. Had his case gone to trial, Bilderback may have faced a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison if found guilty of first degree murder. A sentencing hearing is now scheduled for September 24th, at which time a judge will decide whether Bilderback should be issued a maximum sentence of 16 years, a minimum of 6, or somewhere in between. The shooting incident took place back in September of 2017 at Dave’s Pit Stop Auto Shop in Avery, reportedly, shortly after a family altercation.