

**NOT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL REPORTS**

California Rules of Court, rule 8.1115(a), prohibits courts and parties from citing or relying on opinions not certified for publication or ordered published, except as specified by rule 8.1115(b). This opinion has not been certified for publication or ordered published for purposes of rule 8.1115.

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT

DIVISION TWO

THE PEOPLE,

Plaintiff and Respondent,

v.

KENNETH MULLEN  
WATKINS,

Defendant and Appellant.

B285165

(Los Angeles County  
Super. Ct. No. BA444632)

THE COURT:\*

A jury convicted Kenneth Watkins (defendant) of second degree murder (Pen. Code, § 187, subd. (a)) and found true the allegation that he used a deadly and dangerous weapon (Pen. Code, § 12022, subd. (b)(1)). The trial court sentenced defendant to prison for 16 years to life, comprised of 15 years to life for the murder and one year for the weapon enhancement.

---

\* LUI, P. J., CHAVEZ, J., HOFFSTADT, J.

Defendant filed a timely appeal, and we appointed counsel to represent him on appeal. Defendant's appointed counsel filed a brief pursuant to *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436 (*Wende*), raising no issues. On February 13, 2018, we gave notice to defendant that his counsel had failed to find any arguable issues and that defendant had 30 days within which to submit by brief or letter any grounds of appeal, contentions, or arguments he wished this court to consider. The period elapsed, and we received no response from defendant.

We have independently examined the entire record and have found that no arguable issues of any sort exist.

The second degree murder conviction and weapon enhancement are supported by substantial evidence. After his arrest, defendant admitted that he repeatedly stabbed Terry Benjamin (Benjamin) in Benjamin's apartment to "protect" himself from Benjamin's sexual advances. Defendant also admitted that he and Benjamin had known each other for a while and that Benjamin occasionally paid defendant for sexual activity. The forensic evidence confirmed defendant's account: Benjamin suffered several stab wounds; both defendant's and Benjamin's DNA was found on one or more of four knives stuffed into a bag in Benjamin's apartment; and defendant's fingerprints were found on items in Benjamin's apartment, including on a mop used to clean up some of the blood from the stabbings. What is more, when law enforcement tracked down video footage from a Wal-Mart corresponding with the time listed on a Wal-Mart receipt in Benjamin's apartment, the video depicted Benjamin and defendant together; defendant appeared to be wearing the same shirt and camouflage pants contained in a bag found in Benjamin's apartment.

We have also not identified any defects with the trial. The jury was properly instructed on the crimes of first and second degree murder, voluntary and involuntary manslaughter, the allegation of personal use of a deadly weapon, and also on complete and imperfect self-defense. And the trial court's evidentiary rulings were within its discretion.

Because we have determined that there are no arguable issues, we are satisfied that defendant's attorney has fully complied with his responsibilities and affirm defendant's conviction and sentence. (*People v. Kelly* (2006) 40 Cal.4th 106, 109-110; *Wende, supra*, 25 Cal.3d at p. 441.)

The judgment is affirmed.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.