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NEWS RELEASE

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CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SEEKS CERTIFICATION OF JUVENILE DEFENDANT TO ADULT COURT IN HORSE STABBING CASE

The Clark County District Attorney's Office is seeking the certification of a juvenile defendant to the adult criminal system in connection with the alleged stabbing and abuse of multiple horses during a barrel racing event held in Las Vegas.

The District Attorney's Office is currently reviewing the matter to determine what charges to file which may include willful or malicious torture, maiming, or killing of an animal and felony malicious destruction of property. A Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Animal Cruelty Section investigation found the juvenile intentionally injured three horses with a knife at the South Point Arena and Equestrian Center on May 30, 2026. The horses survived their injuries but were unable to compete in the rest of the national barrel racing competition.

After reviewing the allegations, the nature of the offenses, and the circumstances of the case, the District Attorney's Office has determined that seeking certification to adult court is appropriate.

"These allegations involve deliberate acts of extreme cruelty against defenseless animals and have had a significant impact on the victims, the owners, and the broader equestrian community," said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "Animal abuse cases are taken extremely seriously by our office. Nevada law allows certain juvenile offenders to be prosecuted as adults when warranted by the seriousness of the conduct. We believe this case meets that standard."

The next hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th. A certification hearing will be scheduled at a later date where a judge will determine whether the matter should proceed in the adult criminal justice system.

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