

LA jury can consider lesser charge in Spector case

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LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Los Angeles judge has ruled that jurors in Phil Spector's trial can consider the lesser charge of involuntary manslaughter instead of second-degree murder.

Superior Court spokeswoman Vania Stuelp (VAHN'-yuh STULP') says Judge Larry Paul Fidler made the decision Friday.

The ruling reverses Fidler's decision in Spector's first trial where he refused to instruct the jury that it could consider voluntary or involuntary manslaughter in the death of actress Lana Clarkson.

The music producer is accused of fatally shooting Clarkson at his home in 2003. The defense says she killed herself.

His lawyer says Fidler's ruling would confuse the jury.

Jurors in the first trial deadlocked with the majority favoring conviction on second-degree murder.

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In this Jan. 26, 2009 file photo, music producer Phil Spector listens during a hearing in Los Angeles County Superior Court in downtown Los Angeles. Jurors in the Phil Spector retrial can consider involuntary manslaughter instead of second-degree murder in the shooting death of actress Lana Clarkson, a judge ruled Friday, March 20, 2009. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

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