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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 2, 2007
Re: Steven Howell

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Howell, age 42 of Turlock, was found unsuitable for parole after a hearing held on July 26th, 2007 before the State Board of Prison Terms at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione.

Howell is currently serving a life sentence for Second Degree Murder. In 1999, A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Howell of the 1995 killing of his daughter Bethany, which occurred just one week shy of her second birthday. Bethany died from severe internal trauma inflicted by Howell, who then failed to obtain any medical assistance though she was visibly injured. When the child stopped breathing later that evening Howell called 911 but the infant was dead when emergency personnel arrived.

Deputy District Attorney Randy Fischer appeared at the parole hearing and argued against Howell's release based upon the extreme circumstances involved in the commission of the offense and the argument that Howell still poses an unreasonable level of danger to the community if he were to be released. Infant Bethany's mother also appeared at the hearing and requested the Board deny Howell's request for parole.

The Board of Prison Terms denied Howell's parole for four years. He will be eligible for another hearing in 2011.

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