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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: June 18, 2009  
Re: James Lee Helm – Found to be a  
Sexually Violent Predator

**For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that on June 18, 2009, a jury found that James Lee Helm, age 58, of Ceres, met the criteria to be classified as a sexually violent predator. Upon accepting the verdict, the Honorable Donald Shaver ordered that Helm be re-committed to the Department of Mental Health for an indeterminate term as provided by the law regulating the confinement and treatment of sexually violent predators. Helm had previously been convicted of two child molestation charges and had served a prison term for those convictions. The jury found that Helm posed a substantial risk of committing future predatory sexual offenses if not confined and treated in the state hospital. Helm was initially found by a jury to be a sexually violent predator on July 18, 2006. Helm's initial commitment had expired and a new petition for commitment as a sexually violent predator had been filed by the District Attorney. The commitment period for a sexually violent predator had previously only been two years and subsequent jury trials for re-commitment were required. The passage of "Jessica's Law" transformed the commitment into an indeterminate term; the defendant must now complete the state's Sexually Violent Predator program and demonstrate that he no longer poses a risk of harm to the public before he is eligible for release.

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