



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 18, 2009
Re: Ivy Martin- Parole Hearing

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ivy Martin, age 45, formerly of Modesto, waived her right to a parole hearing in front of the State Board of Prison Hearings on March 18, 2009 at California Institute for Women in Corona, Ca. for a stipulated one-year denial. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing in order to argue for continued confinement due to the prisoner's lack of rehabilitation. Before the hearing could commence, Martin's attorney objected to the composition of the Parole Board, claiming that the panel was prejudiced against him (the attorney) and his client since the Deputy Commissioner was a former law partner of this attorney and animosity from the breakup of their partnership still existed. The Board of Prison Hearings accepted her waiver and rescheduled her next hearing for 2010.

The inmate was convicted of First Degree Murder by Torture and Child Abuse Causing Great Bodily Injury of 3-year-old Jerome Martin in 1990, and was sentenced to 25 years-to-life in prison. After a successful appeal and then a re-trial, she was again convicted of Murder and re-sentenced to 15 years to life in prison. She has been incarcerated for this crime for 19 years. This was her 6th parole hearing.

Martin lived with Teresa Patterson in a small trailer in Modesto. Martin's child, Jerome, was entrusted to Patterson's care while Martin was at work. Patterson abused the child for a 6-month period prior to his death, inflicting serious injuries including a fractured arm, separated shoulder, cigarette burns to his chest, scarring to his face and neck from fingernail scratches, and bladder damage caused by refusing to let him urinate until she finally killed him with a blow to the head on January 7, 1989. Martin was aware of this abuse and permitted it to continue. Both women planned to put Jerome up for adoption, but were never able to do so as he was too bruised and injured to be exposed to the authorities. Martin permitted the abuse to occur and refused to call for help once the child suffered his final injury. Instead of seeking medical care, the women purchased drugs and consumed them while the child was dying in the next room. Once Jerome had died, they buried him in a shallow grave in an orchard and claimed he was kidnapped.

Both women were convicted of murder and child abuse at separate trials and sentenced to life terms in prison. Neither has admitted full responsibility for Jerome's abuse prior to his death, and they have claimed the death was accidental, despite significant evidence to the contrary.

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