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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 30, 2011
Re: Therin Edwards – Life Sentence

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Therin Edwards, age 42, of Modesto, was sentenced on March 30, 2011 to 41 years to life for felony spousal abuse with use of a weapon, felony assault with a deadly weapon, and three prior felony convictions that fall under California's "Three Strikes" law. These prior convictions included: a 1987 assault with a deadly weapon where he stabbed a man who survived, a 1988 robbery for pushing a man out of a wheelchair and stealing money from his pocket, and a 1988 assault with a deadly weapon where he chased after a man and tried to stab him with a butcher knife. Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Matzger prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 1, 2010, Edwards believed that his girlfriend, with whom he was living and with whom he has a teenage daughter, had cheated on him. He struck her multiple times with a baseball bat on her back, causing severe bruising to her back, side, and arms. He also strangled her four times, once to the point where she thought she was going to pass out. She survived the strangulation, but had bruising all the way from her neck to her cheek.

At the sentencing hearing, the victim and the daughter asked the court for leniency. Ms. Matzger argued that the Court should not show any mercy and should sentence Edwards to 41 years to life because of Edwards's prior violent "strikes" and the severity of the beating he inflicted on the victim.

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