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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 11, 2013
Re: Lifer Hearing for Douglas THIESSEN
Case #1025476

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Douglas THIESSEN, age 56, formerly of Newman, was found unsuitable for parole at a hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at San Quentin State Prison on May 31. Deputy District Attorney Jared T. Carrillo appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on Thiessen's history of violence against family members, lack of remorse and the danger he would pose to the public if released. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 5 years.

In June 2001, Thiessen was involved in an argument with his 76-year-old mother, Margaret, inside her Newman home. During the argument, Thiessen removed his belt, placed it around his mother's neck and twisted the belt, cutting off her air supply until she was unable to breathe or make a sound; she survived the attack and Thiessen was convicted of Attempted First-Degree Murder with the use of a weapon and was sentenced to 8 years-to-life in state prison for that crime.

Prior to the crime involving his mother, Thiessen had previously shot and killed his brother, Bill, in 1981, which was determined to be self-defense. Then in 1995, Thiessen was convicted of felony battery causing serious bodily injury after beating his sister with a chair. Thiessen's mother died in September 2001 of natural causes.

During the Parole hearing, Thiessen told the Parole Board "I deny there was ever a crime." In issuing their ruling, the Parole Board stated that Thiessen has "denied and minimized all incidents of family violence, and poses an unreasonable risk of danger if released." Thiessen had previously been denied parole in 2010. His next Parole hearing will be in 2018.

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