



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: April 20, 2017  
Re: Matthew Gooch  
Parole Granted

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Matthew Gooch, age 82, of Modesto was granted a parole date during an April 4, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Stockton, California. Deputy District Attorney Randy Fischer appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On January 3, 1980 Gooch attended a party along with the victim, Franklin Woods, Jr. At some point during the party, Gooch got upset that Woods took four dollars from him. Gooch went to a friend's house and borrowed a shotgun. When he came back to the party, Gooch opened the door just wide enough to see Woods and then fired one shotgun shell which struck Woods in the neck, killing him.

Gooch was convicted of second degree murder along with an enhancement for using a firearm. He has been in prison for slightly more than 36 years.

At the parole hearing, the victim's surviving daughter and his grandson made statements to the Board regarding the impact this crime has had on their lives and asking the Board to deny his release on parole.

Deputy District Attorney Fischer argued against release on parole and asked for continued confinement because Gooch continued to be a danger to the public if released. A recent psychologist report indicated that Gooch, in spite of his advanced age, still represented a moderate risk to the community if he was released outside a structured prison environment.

The Board of Parole Hearings did not agree and granted the convicted killer a parole date.

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