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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 9, 2017
Re: Anitra Hankins
Parole Denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Anitra Hankins, 42, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a May 2, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the nature of the crime, defendant's lack of appreciation for her actions, and defendant's lack of candor to a state psychologist. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

Hankins, a graduate of Stanford University, was previously convicted of the attempted murder of her 13-year-old autistic son Miles. On September 26, 2010, Hankins repeatedly stabbed her son after telling him to lie down for her and then tying him up. When police arrived, the scene was bloody and Miles's intestines were partially outside his body. Miles had also suffered a serious head injury when Hankins struck him with a heavy clock.

During a late 2015 interview with a prison psychologist, Hankins denied a significant history of violence against her son outside of the attempted murder, a claim the psychologist doubted. In fact, Hankins had previously admitted repeatedly striking her son in prior incidents, including with wire hangers.

Hankins blamed the crime on a difficult upbringing and violence she had suffered at the hands of other men. The parole board found that her account of the crime was "missing something," as Miles himself submitted to her before being repeatedly stabbed.

Hankins will get another parole hearing in at most three years. Based on recent changes in the law, she can apply for an earlier parole hearing in one year.

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