



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
David P. Harris

Chief Deputies
Annette Rees
Douglas K. Raynaud
Marlisa Ferreira
Stephen R. Robinson

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 18, 2018
Re: Ronald Bartell
Parole denied

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ronald Bartell, aka Donald Dewayne Bartell, age 52, of Turlock, was found unsuitable for parole during a July 12, 2018, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the state prison in Corcoran. Deputy District Attorney Michael Karimi traveled to Corcoran and appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In March of 1989, Bartell learned that best friend, Troy Meadows, had beaten a 7-year-old child while Bartell was on a trip to Reno. The child belonged to Bartell's ex-girlfriend, who was serving a jail sentence at the time. When he returned, Bartell lured Meadows to a remote area in Stanislaus County and murdered him with a single gunshot to the head.

Bartell pled guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to a term of 27 years to life in state prison. With the passage of Assembly Bill 1308 by the Legislature, Bartell qualified for special consideration as a "Youthful Offender" since he was 23 years old at the time of the killing.

During the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Michael Karimi argued to the Board that Bartell should not be released because he still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety. The Board agreed and denied parole for 3 years in large part due to Bartell's history of continued and repeated drug abuse both in and out of prison.

Bartell was previously denied parole for 3 years on March 30, 2017, but under the new law he was able to get another hearing in just one year. Despite this second 3-year denial, as a "Youthful Offender," Bartell will again be able to seek another parole hearing in just 1 year.

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Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



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