



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: December 28, 2018  
Re: Sean Robert Bengé  
Life without parole killer given reduced  
sentence by Governor Brown

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted life without parole killer Sean Robert Bengé, age 40, currently in Valley State prison, has been granted clemency by outgoing Governor Jerry Brown during the Governor's last days in office.

Bengé was convicted by a Stanislaus County Jury of First Degree Murder with special circumstances and sentenced in 2009 to life in prison in without the possibility of parole for the January 4, 2005 shotgun killing of 45-year old victim Steven Brown. Brown's body was discovered by his 12-year-old daughter when she came home from school. His conviction and sentence were upheld on appeal. This year, Bengé applied for clemency to outgoing Governor Jerry Brown.

In opposing the clemency application, on August 27, 2018, the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office contacted the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation seeking access to any records documenting Bengé's good or bad behavior since being sentenced to prison. That request was ignored. The District Attorney sent a letter to Governor Brown's office asking that clemency be denied. That correspondence was also ignored and no response was ever received. No input from the victim's surviving family members or the District Attorney was sought by the Governor prior to making his decision to reduce Bengé's sentence from life with no possibility of parole to 25 years to life with the possibility of parole, erasing an additional 25 years to life sentence enhancement for personally using a shotgun during the murder. This means that Bengé may be eligible for a parole hearing in as little as 12 years.

In a Christmas Eve press release, Governor Brown granted 143 pardons and 131 commutations. According to an article in the Sacramento Bee, Governor Brown has granted more pardons and commutations than eight of the governors who served prior to him. In at least six cases, the California Supreme Court has reversed several of Brown's recent decisions.

Read more here: <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article223530665.html#storylink=cpy>