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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 18, 2020
Re: Robert James Saretti
Child Molester denied parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Robert James Saretti, age 51, of Modesto, was denied parole during an August 12, 2020, hearing of the Board of Parole Hearings held at the Substance Abuse Treatment Center in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Saretti was convicted in 1999 of sexually abusing two young family members, one approximately six and the other seven years old. His stated reason for doing so was that he was "sexually frustrated" by his wife's refusal to be intimate with him and considered them "easy" targets. The sexual abuse came to light when the mother told a counselor who then contacted police. Saretti pled "no contest" to his crimes and was sentenced to serve life plus three years in state prison.

During the hearing, Saretti admitted to being a career criminal who sought power and control over others by often carrying a gun while selling and using drugs among other crimes. For the first time, Saretti admitted he may have raped the two children because of his anger towards his wife.

Saretti has been in prison for 21 years. A comprehensive risk assessment by a psychologist rated him a moderate risk to public safety if released on parole. Deputy District Attorney Goold argued to the Board against Saretti's release for a period of seven years -the longest term of denial allowed- based upon his lack of insight into why he committed the rapes, his failure to take any classes to understand why he is a sexual offender and having absolutely no relapse prevention plan so that he would not sexually reoffend again if released.

The parole board denied parole for only three years specifically on the issue of Saretti's lack of programming while in custody. This was his second parole hearing. Saretti previously stipulated to being unsuitable for parole in 2014.

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