

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Re: **Mulvaney Plea**

For more information contact:
John J. Goold
Chief Deputy District Attorney

Today in Stanislaus County Superior Court Christopher Shane Mulvaney, 30 years old, entered a guilty plea that will ensure he dies in prison. Mulvaney was arrested in May of 2001 for the April 26th rape and murder of Susan Eyre, 33 years old.

At the time of the murder, Mulvaney was engaged to Eyre's best friend. It is through that relationship that Mulvaney became acquainted with Eyre. Prosecutors were seeking the death penalty for Mulvaney as a result of his actions, but allowed Mulvaney to plea today for the sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Mulvaney plead guilty to premeditated murder, rape, and first degree burglary. He also admitted the special circumstances of rape and burglary in the first degree. It was those special circumstances that made Mulvaney eligible for death.

Deputy District Attorney Rob Taro who along with Deputy District Attorney Linda McFadden prosecuted the case explained that it was the desire of Eyre's family that led his office to allow a plea to life without parole rather than seek the death penalty.

"The defense first approached us about allowing a plea to life without parole" Taro stated. "Mr. Brazelton, the District Attorney, wanted to meet in person with Eyre's family members and her parents in particular to see what their position was. It was after that meeting in which they expressed their strong desire to allow Mulvaney to plea to life without parole rather than seek death that Mr. Brazelton stated he would allow such a plea" Taro added.

McFadden and Taro praised the work of the Modesto Police Department in solving this crime so quickly. "The case was assigned to Det. John Buehler and he along with Det. Craig Grogan and Det. Al Brocchini really put this case together" McFadden stated. In addition to their work McFadden pointed out that the presence of the DNA evidence is what made this case so strong. "The DNA analysis in this case showed that DNA recovered from Ms. Eyre and compared with

DNA collected from Mulvaney showed that he was the murderer, the comparison showed that the DNA was a match of greater than 1 in 100 Billion”

The Honorable Wray Ladine presided over the hearing. Ladine heard from several family members and friends all of who gave emotional statements, but reiterated the family’s desire for a plea of life without the possibility of parole. Ladine asked Mulvaney if he understood each charge and if he was guilty of each charge. Mulvaney softly stated “Yes sir” and “Guilty sir” to each of the charges. Ladine also asked Mulvaney if he understood that if he pleaded guilty to the crimes that he would “Never see the light of day again except from the inside of a prison.” Ladine also asked Mulvaney if he realized that he would never be released from a prison “Until you are laid to rest in a graveyard.” Mulvaney softly replied “Yes sir.”