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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: October 23, 2003

Re: Kathleen O'Connell Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that, Kathleen O'Connell, 36, was found unsuitable for parole at an October 22, 2003 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms in Chowchilla, California. Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement in that the offense was carried out in a manner which exhibited a callous disregard for the life and/or suffering of another and that multiple victims were injured.

On February 4, 1993, Kathleen O'Connell attempted to commit suicide and kill her two children, ages 3 and 2, by disconnecting the stove gas line in the kitchen of her Modesto residence. The accumulated fumes eventually exploded, seriously burning them all. Two neighbors rescued her and the children from the flames, but not before the children received burns over fifty percent of their bodies.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1994 Kathleen O'Connell was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of Attempted Murder and Child Endangerment. She is serving a life sentence and has previously been denied parole. Kathleen O'Connell will be scheduled for another parole hearing in two years.

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