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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: CDDA John Goold

Date: December 26, 2006

Re: Dennis Blair #33088

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Dennis Blair, age 52, of Modesto, was recommitted to Napa State Hospital for another two-year involuntary commitment after a court trial on December 20, 2006. Blair had previously been found not guilty by reason of insanity for the underlying offense. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case and argued for re-commitment based on Blair's significant danger to others. Dr. Stephen Surtshin of Napa State Hospital testified for the people. Mr. Blair's mother, as well as a former employer of Blair's, testified for the defense. Judge Marie Silveira presided over the case.

Blair was charged in 1983 of first degree burglary, and lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14, after he broke into the home of a 9-year-old girl, and molested her. He was found not guilty by reason of insanity, and sentenced to a State mental facility for treatment. Blair has been re-committed several times, although he did earn outpatient status, as recently as 1998 through 2002.

Mr. Blair suffers from a multitude of mental illnesses, primarily being Pedophilia and Schizo-Affective Disorder. Dr. Surtshin testified that "his behavior is somewhat controlled with medications, but he is rapid cycling, and manic, which means he can go from extreme elation, to severe depression within a matter of minutes. His continuing intense and inappropriate attachments to females is of tremendous concern." Blair is currently under what is termed a Tarasoff warning, due to a threatening letter he wrote to a female staff member at Napa State Hospital, whom he barely knew. Mr. Blair will return to Napa State Hospital until January 22, 2009, when he will again be eligible for a commitment trial.

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