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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: February 23, 2009
Re: Kidnapper and rapist William Florez
receives a seven year denial at his parole
hearing.

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that William Florez, age 46, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a February 20, 2009 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Solano State Prison in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Richard Gore appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on the danger Florez would pose to society should he be released into the community. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for a period of seven years. The 7-year denial was made possible by the recent passage of Proposition 9.

Florez was convicted of kidnap for ransom and forcible rape on November 23, 1982. He is serving a term of imprisonment of fifteen years to life.

In the early morning hours of July 14, 1982, Florez entered the home of a Modesto family. Florez went into the bedroom of their 8-year-old daughter and took her from the home. He bound and gagged the child and placed her in the trunk of his car and then drove to Sonora. Soon after the abduction, the parents discovered that their daughter was missing and they notified the police. Once in Sonora, Florez called the family and demanded money for the safe return of their daughter. He asked for five hundred dollars. On July 15, while Florez was speaking to the father from a phone booth and arranging to get the money, he was arrested by detectives from the Modesto Police Department. The daughter was returned to her family.

As a result of the publicity in the case, at least two women came forward to report that they had been raped by Florez. He was convicted of one of those rapes along with the kidnapping for ransom crime.

The hearing on February 20th was Florez's ninth parole hearing. The parents of the kidnapped girl were present at the hearing and spoke against parole for Florez. They have attended all of his parole hearings. The hearing was held without Florez being present, however, as he refused to come to the hearing room and face the family members.

Florez's last denial of parole was on January 31, 2007. He will be scheduled for another hearing in 2016.

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