



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: March 17, 2021  
Re: William Farriste Caldwell  
Sexual Sadist Denied Parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that William Farriste Caldwell, age 62, of Modesto, was denied parole during a February 11, 2021 hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings conducted at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, California. Deputy District Attorney Laura Keenan attended the hearing on behalf of the People.

Caldwell is currently serving a life term in state prison after being sentenced under California's "Three Strikes" law. Caldwell committed the following crimes leading up to and supporting his current life sentence.

On April 10, 1981, in Fresno County, Caldwell, then age 23, attacked, sexually assaulted and mutilated a 25-year-old female victim. He bit both of the victim's ears, disfiguring her, and forced her to orally copulate him multiple times. Caldwell then forced another man to sodomize the victim and, when the victim tried to escape, he beat the victim and bit her again. Caldwell then tried to force his fist and a beer can into the victim's vagina and made her orally copulate him again. Fortunately, the victim was able to escape and get help from a passing motorist.

Only three weeks later, on May 1, 1981, Caldwell continued his crime spree in Stanislaus County where he stabbed his cousin fourteen times in the head and neck.

He was subsequently arrested and convicted of mayhem and multiple forcible sex crimes for his heinous crimes in Fresno County and assault with a deadly weapon for the attack on his cousin in Stanislaus County. He was sentenced to concurrent and consecutive terms for all of these crimes for a total of 23 years in state prison.

On May 12, 1995, after being released from prison, a parole search of his home found him in possession of methamphetamine. He was arrested and charged with that crime along with the prior violent felony offenses under the "Three Strikes" law. On January 14, 1998, a Stanislaus County

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jury convicted him of the crime and found the strike priors to be true. He was sentenced to serve 25 years to life in state prison. A state appellate court upheld the 25-to-life prison term finding that Caldwell was precisely the type of offender from whom society sought protection by use of habitual offender statutes.

Since being in custody, Caldwell has violated prison rules by being out of bounds (2019), violating grooming standards (2019), being in possession of dangerous contraband (2014), failing to report for work/refusing to work (2010), manufacturing inmate alcohol (2005), failing to report for work (2005), manufacturing inmate alcohol (2001), refusing to work (2000), threatening violence towards others (2000), participating in a work strike (1994), refusing to work (1987), disobeying rules and procedures (1984), misuse of state property (1984) and fighting (1983).

Caldwell was diagnosed with Sexual Sadism Disorder in 2017. Caldwell currently exhibits frequent thoughts of hurting, torturing or killing people.

On February 25, 2017, a prison psychologist examined Caldwell (who now identifies as transgender) and gave the opinion that Caldwell poses a high risk for future violence if she were to be paroled into the community based upon her extensive history of violence, frequent homicidal and suicidal ideations that vacillate in intensity, antisocial behavior and the rule violations accrued while incarcerated. Caldwell also continues to display instability despite years of mental health treatment.

During the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Keenan argued against Caldwell's release based on her frequent homicidal ideations, rule violations and violent history. The board agreed but denied parole for only three years.

This was Caldwell's first parole hearing.

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