



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: May 27, 2021  
Re: Charles Wayne Lairson  
Convicted killer denied parole

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

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Charles Wayne Lairson, age 70, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a May 20, 2021, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the California Institute for Men in Chino, California. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On April 10, 2001, Stanislaus County Sheriff's deputies responded to the residence of Dora Lairson on reports of a stabbing. Arriving deputies found Dora Lairson deceased, lying in a pool of blood, and having suffered significant injuries including multiple stab wounds. Lairson, her son, was arrested the following day. Lairson was a lifelong methamphetamine addict with prior convictions for burglary, conspiracy, possession of narcotics and theft. When interviewed by detectives, he initially denied killing his mother but later admitted to striking her with a hammer, then stabbing her repeatedly, after she caught him stealing money from her purse so he could buy methamphetamine.

On January 3, 2003, Lairson was convicted of second-degree murder along with an enhancement for using a deadly weapon. He was sentenced to serve 16-years-to-life in state prison sentence.

Lairson has spent the last 20 years in prison and was recently made eligible for parole pursuant to California's newly enacted "Elderly Release Program."

The victim's daughter and two granddaughters attended this hearing and, along with prosecutor Hogan from the Stanislaus District Attorney's Office, argued that parole should be denied based on the brutality of the crime and clear evidence that, if released, the inmate would represent a significant danger to public safety.

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The Board of Parole Hearings considered Lairson's age as a special consideration but agreed with the People that his release would pose an unreasonable risk to society. The Board denied parole for three years.

This was Lairson's second parole hearing, having been denied parole in 2016.

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