



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
David P. Harris

**Chief Deputies**  
Marlisa Ferreira  
Jeffrey M. Laugero  
Wendell Emerson  
Michael D. Houston  
Mark Zahner

**Bureau of Investigation**  
Chief Terry L. Seese

---

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: September 9, 2021  
Re: Arvind Vyas Gopal  
Parole denial

### For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Arvind Vyas Gopal, age 55, was denied parole at the conclusion of a September 1, 2021 hearing by the Board of Parole Hearings held at the California State Prison Solano in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Vita Palazuelos appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On June 10, 2003, Gopal got into an argument with a coworker. Gopal used a knife to slash the coworker causing great bodily injury to his face and neck. Police identified Gopal as the perpetrator and arrested him several days later. He was subsequently convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of attempted premeditated murder with great bodily injury and use of a knife, aggravated mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threats. He was sentenced to serve 12 years-to-life in state prison.

Since being in custody, Gopal has violated prison rules for possessing an inmate weapon and stealing state property. At a hearing just last year in 2020, it became evident to the Board that Gopal had failed to continue with alcohol classes despite having an alcohol problem, failed to attend many of the self-help or educational classes offered at the institution and had vague parole plans. At that time, the Board denied parole for 3 years and admonished Gopal to remain discipline free and to continue with education and self-help programming.

Despite the recent three-year denial, the Board advanced Gopal's next hearing to September 1, 2021 after determining that Gopal had addressed the issues the previous board addressed with him by taking some AA classes.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, however, when Gopal testified at the hearing it became clear to the Board that he still failed to accept responsibility for his crimes and continued to minimize his criminal history. Despite having taken AA and Domestic Violence classes, Gopal still demonstrated a lack of insight into the causes of his criminality and would pose an unreasonable risk to public safety if he were released.

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board once again denied parole for a period of three years. As he did last year, Gopal may again petition the Board to advance that date if he can show another change in circumstances.

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement stands ready to deport Gopal to the Fiji Islands when he is released from prison. That deportation order may no longer be honored if pending California Assembly Bill 937 is passed and signed by Governor Newsom. That bill would limit state cooperation with immigration authorities when it comes to deporting convicted criminals who are released from prison.

###