



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Jeffrey M. Laugero

Chief Deputies
Marlisa Ferreira
Wendell Emerson
Michael D. Houston
Mark Zahner

Bureau of Investigation
Chief Terry L. Seese

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 24, 2022
Re: Shatka Mojave Wells
Convicted Sex Offender Granted Parole

For More Information Contact:

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

Modesto, California- Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Shatka Mojave Wells, age 44, of Modesto was found suitable for parole during a June 7, 2022 hearing by the State Board of Parole Hearings held at San Quentin state prison. Special Prosecutor Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On October 31, 1997, Wells kidnapped a 14-year-old female while she was walking home from high school. Wells pulled her into an alley and forced her to orally copulate him and threatened to rape her. Three days later Wells assaulted his second victim, a 17-year-old female acquaintance, by attempting to pull her into the bushes as she walked home from school. The female was able to grab onto a tree and scream for help. A nearby woman saw the struggle and yelled at Wells to leave the female alone allowing the young girl to escape. Hours later Wells approached his third and fourth victims, a 13-year-old female and a 15-year-old female and induced them into a secluded alley. Wells grabbed both girls by the neck and stated he had a gun. The 13-year-old was able to run away and call law enforcement but Wells forced the 15-year old girl onto the ground and attempted to rape her numerous times.

On February 5, 1999, a jury found Wells guilty of aggravated kidnapping, forcible oral copulation, attempted false imprisonment, assault, and assault with the intent to commit rape. The jury also found the kidnapping for rape and other enhancements to be true. On April 2, 1999, Wells was sentenced to serve a total of 31 years to life in state prison.

Since going to prison, Wells regularly violated prison rules including possessing and using controlled substances in 2014, possessing a cellphone in 2011, disruptive behavior in 2010, 2008, 2004 and 2002, and possession of manufactured alcohol in 2001. In 2016, a comprehensive risk assessment by a prison psychologist gave the opinion that Wells represented a high risk for future violence if released into the community. An updated assessment in 2022 by a different psychologist rated Wells as a low risk for violence if 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 hearing on June 7th, Wells accepted responsibility for his crimes, expressed remorse for what he did and discussed the extensive programming he has engaged in over the last 24 years in prison custody to address his criminality.

Prosecutor MacKinnon argued against Wells's release and for his continued confinement in prison based on the extremely callous and violent nature of his crimes. She further argued that Wells lacked credibility, had inadequate parole plans and urged the Board to direct Wells to engage in further substance addiction rehabilitation programming. MacKinnon noted that one of Wells's young victims never recovered from his attacks, turning to drugs and abusive relationships until she was ultimately killed in 2009 in a domestic violence incident. Another of Wells's victims ended up in a mental institution.

The Board of Parole hearings disagreed and granted Wells parole. They found that Wells was being honest about his past while testifying during the hearing and had not used any alcohol or controlled substances in prison since 2014. Wells was 20-years-old at the time he forced oral copulation, aggravated kidnapping and assault with intent to commit rape on three children, making him eligible for "Youthful Offender Parole" that required the Board to give "great weight" to the impulsive nature of youth. The board commissioners found Wells exhibited growth and maturity during his time in prison and were particularly impressed by Wells's participation in rehabilitative programming, self-reflection, education and volunteer work over the last 24 years. Lastly, the Board found that Wells had adequate parole plans and had received recommendation letters from various organizations supporting his release.

This was Wells's first parole hearing. He has been incarcerated in state prison for approximately 24 years. The Board's decision now advances to the Decision Review Unit which has 120 days to review the grant of parole. If the Decision Review Unit approves the decision, Governor Newsom will then have 30 days to reverse, modify, refer to the full Board sitting en banc, or let the grant of parole stand. The District Attorney's Office will formally request that Governor Newsom reverse the Parole Board's decision.

Even if released from prison, Wells will be required to register as a sex offender with law enforcement for the rest of his life.

###

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/>