



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: August 10, 2022  
Re: Therin Ray Edwards  
“Three Strikes” Inmate Denied Parole

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

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Therin Ray Edwards, age 53, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during an August 3, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Valley State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Margot Roen appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In February of 2010, Edwards beat his 38-year-old fiancée with a baseball bat across her back as she stood at the kitchen sink. He continued to beat her with the bat after she returned to her wheelchair. When the bat broke, Edwards grabbed a nearby wooden stick and continued to hit the victim. Sheriff’s deputies were notified after the victim requested an ambulance to take her to the hospital. Paramedics and deputies observed large bruises on the victim’s back. She also had bruises on her jaw and neck from Edwards repeatedly punching her with his fists. The victim believed Edwards hit her between 80 to 100 times. Edwards told police he was under the influence of drugs at the time and that he beat the victim because he wanted her to tell the truth about whether she had been unfaithful to him.

Edwards’s prior criminal history included three prior convictions for assault with a deadly weapon as well as prior convictions for battery, vandalism, domestic violence and robbery. He served at least three prior prison terms.

On February 14, 2011, Edwards pleaded guilty to felony domestic violence, assault with a deadly weapon and admitted personally using a deadly weapon. His prior violent felony convictions under California’s “Three Strikes” law were used to increase his sentence to 25 years to life in state prison.

A prison psychologist who examined Edwards prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that Edwards still posed a moderate risk for violence if he were to be released into the community. The psychologist felt that Edwards tended to minimize his violence against his partners and had not adequately addressed his domestic violence issues while in custody and had not developed any intimate partner violence relapse prevention plan.

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Prosecutor Roen asked the Board to deny parole, pointing out that Edwards had only just begun to address his long history of violence, substance abuse and mental health issues after being in prison for over 11 years. Roen argued that Edwards continued to pose an unreasonable risk of danger to the community if he were to be released from prison.

After deliberations, the Board denied parole for three years, stating that, although Edwards had shown progress in some areas, his extensive criminal history and poor performance on parole in the past weighed against his suitability for parole. The Board also found that Edwards still had much work to do to address his problems with substance abuse and needed to develop a cohesive relapse plan before returning to the community.

This was Edwards first parole hearing.

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