



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: October 5, 2023  
Re: Shu Chinsami  
Convicted Killer Denied Parole

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Shu Chinsami, 69, formerly of Stanislaus County, was found unsuitable for parole at an August 10, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Sasha Jasty appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on Chinsami's high risk of future violence. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

In 1990, Chinsami shot Sandra Smith twice in the head as she lay on a sofa, then shot himself in the head. At the time of the murder, Chinsami and Smith had been divorced for about five years. In 1991, a jury found Chinsami sane and convicted Chinsami of first-degree murder. Chinsami was sentenced to a term of 25 years to life with an additional four-year enhancement, with the possibility of parole.

Chinsami has a history of poor behavior during his incarceration, including refusing to attend mental health counseling. Chinsami has also had a history of not complying with mental health treatment, as well as delusional thought processes. During the hearing, Chinsami continued to deny that he had a mental health condition and claimed that he had rehabilitated himself. Chinsami claimed that he had attended Alcoholics Anonymous but could not answer the Board's questions about the twelve steps.

When asked about his relationship with Smith, Chinsami spoke about Smith's behavior as the reason for the dysfunction in their relationship and his violence towards her. Chinsami also demonstrated very little insight into the impact that the murder had on their young daughter.

Prior to the hearing, Chinsami was evaluated by a psychologist and deemed to have a high risk of future violence. Due to his history of noncompliance with treatment and persistent delusional thinking. It was argued that Chinsami poses a greater threat to himself than others, particularly in light of his advanced age and other health issues. The Board disagreed and denied parole for three years. The Board noted that Chinsami's parole plans were "unrealistic" and that release was not appropriate, even in light of Chinsami's age and health. Chinsami will be scheduled for another hearing in 2026.

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