



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: April 4, 2023  
Re: Darius Eugene Kirvin  
Convicted Killer Denied Parole

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Darius Eugene Kirvin, age 58, formerly of Dallas, Texas was found unsuitable for parole during a March 16, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

At 3 a.m. on August 2, 1995, a thirty-year old Kirvin kicked open the door of his estranged wife Lashawn's home, armed with a knife. When she confronted him as to what he was doing there, Kirvin told her, "I'm going to kill you, bitch." Kirvin then proceeded to stab Lashawn eighteen times in front of her three children (aged seven to eleven), her female friend and that friend's four-year old child. Kirvin then stabbed Lashawn's female friend ten times and ran from the scene. Lashawn's friend called 911 and then passed the phone to Lashawn's son, who told how he saw his father stab his mother. Both victims were transported to the hospital where Lashawn Kirvin died the next day. Kirvin was arrested on August 4<sup>th</sup> as he returned to his barracks at Lemoore Naval Air Station. He had been absent without leave (AWOL) at the time of the attacks.

On March 26, 1996, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Kirvin of first degree murder and attempted voluntary manslaughter. The jury found that Kirvin used a deadly weapon in each offense and intentionally inflicted great bodily injury. On April 23, 1996, then Judge William Mayhew sentenced Kirvin to a total of 33 years and six months to life in state prison.

One year prior to the murder, Kirvin had attacked Lashawn in a grocery parking lot, where he ripped her blouse, grabbed her by the arms, and dug his fingernails into her skin causing bruises. Charged as a misdemeanor, Kirvin was given the opportunity to successfully complete a domestic violence diversion program for his crime and the case was dismissed.

After completing diversion, Kirvin was convicted in 1995 of assault with a deadly weapon and spousal battery. In one incident, Kirvin strangled Lashawn with an electrical cord and imprisoned her in her own garage, refusing to let her leave until she agreed to have sex with him. In a second incident, Kirvin rammed Lashawn's car twice, causing her car to crash into a nearby planter.

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Witnesses at the scene told officers it appeared Kirvin was trying to kill Lashawn with his car. After each of these offenses, Kirvin wrote Lashawn letters telling her to drop charges so he could remain a member of the United States Navy and provide money for their children. Lashawn did as he asked and submitted a letter asking the District Attorney's Office to drop all charges. Despite her request, the prosecution went forward with each case, ending in his two felony convictions and a jail sentence. Kirvin was on felony probation for these crimes at the time he committed the murder.

Prior to the March 16<sup>th</sup> parole hearing, a prison psychologist who examined Kirvin gave the opinion that Kirvin posed a low risk for violence to the community if he were to be released on parole, citing to Kirvin's participation in prison programs, having not committed any prison rules violations since 2002, having furthered his education and his "considerable progress with regard to understanding and reducing his violence risk." The psychologist stated that Kirvin's substance abuse appeared to play a part in the murder. During the hearing, however, Kirvin contradicted the psychologist, stating that he had not consumed any alcohol or controlled substances on the morning he brutally stabbed Lashawn and her friend multiple times.

Kirvin admitted to the Board having physically and emotionally abused his wife for the entire length of their ten-year marriage. Kirvin also told them that despite being in custody for 27 years, he had completed only one correspondence program related to domestic violence and was currently enrolled in a prison run domestic violence prevention group.

Lashawn's two children as well as the surviving victim and her son appeared at the hearing and addressed the Board, detailing how Kirvin was verbally abusive to them when they lived together. After the killing, the children were split up and each one was sent to live with a different family. They detailed the emotional toll on their lives caused by Kirvin brutally murdering their mother.

Prosecutor Vasquez argued to the board that the egregious nature of the attack on two adult females, as well as Kirvin's failure to address the underlying causes for his violence against women, his numerous rules violations prior to 2002 and lack of offender change weighed in favor of denying parole.

After deliberations, the Board denied Kirvin parole for three years finding he still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety. They found Kirvin's participation in prison programs was insufficient to mitigate his offense, that he had failed to address his violent impulses, had not internalized the programs he had attended and that he lacked significant insight and failed to recognize the impact his violence had on Lashawn, her children, her friend and her friend's child. The Board was also concerned with Kirvin's attempt to blame the offense on substance abuse, when Kirvin clearly said he went to Lashawn's home with the clear intent of killing her.

This was Kirvin's first parole hearing. Although he will be scheduled for another hearing in three years, he may also petition to advance the hearing to an earlier date if he can show a change in circumstances.

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