



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: March 4, 2024  
Re: Frank Joseph Aleo  
Murderer Denied Parole

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

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Frank Joseph Aleo, 78 years old, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a January 25, 2024 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at California Institute for Men in Chino, California. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement.

On June 6, 1982, Aleo, then age 37, drove himself and three others to the victim's apartment to demand payment on his codefendant's debt or as his co-defendant said "get it or just take it". Aleo drove them to pickup a firearm and then headed to the victim's home. Aleo knocked on the door. When the victim asked who was there, a female co-defendant answered it was her. Two other male co-defendants then kicked in the door and Aleo's nephew shot and killed the victim.

In 1983, a Stanislaus County jury found Aleo guilty of first-degree murder, robbery and residential burglary along with an enhancement for being vicariously armed with a firearm and having served three prior prison terms, two of which were for felony sexual conduct that included forcible rape and child molest. On November 30, 1983, the Honorable Charles Stone ordered Aleo to serve a sentence of 31 years to life in state prison. On June 25, 1986, the Fifth Appellate District Court of Appeal affirmed Aleo's conviction.

In 2019, Aleo petitioned for resentencing following the passage of Senate Bill 1437 (amendment to the felony murder law). The Honorable Rick Distaso denied the petition in 2019 following the concession by Aleo's appointed counsel that Aleo was ineligible for relief. Aleo appealed the ruling. The Fifth Appellate District Court of Appeal reviewed and returned the case to the Stanislaus County Superior Court. Following hearing in 2022, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova denied Aleo's petition. Aleo filed an appeal. The matter is pending before the Fifth District Court of Appeal.

Due to another resentencing law which invalidated prison priors in 2022 (Senate Bill 483), the Honorable Ricardo Cordova reduced Aleo's sentence by striking one of Aleo's prison priors and reducing Aleo's sentence to 30 years to life.

Since being incarcerated, Aleo has violated prison rules including exposing himself, multiple substance related violations and obstructing officers in the prison. In 2004, he was convicted of possessing heroin in prison and sentenced to an additional three-year prison term. Aleo was counseled last year when he told his class instructor that he did not need to be there.

The Board found Aleo would be an unreasonable risk of danger to society if released despite the great weight afforded Aleo as he qualifies for consideration of release on elder parole (as he is over the age of 50). In rendering its decision, the Board referred to a 2023 report by the prison psychologist who examined Aleo and stated the inmate posed a moderate risk of violence to the community if he were to be released on parole. The psychologist also referred to the Static-99R, a tool used to assist in identifying potential recidivism in sexual offenders. The results provided Aleo had a 99.1% likelihood of committing another sexual offense. The psychologist stated the tool may overestimate Aleo risk for offense as it did not consider Aleo's current age of 78.

The Board found Aleo had an extensive criminal history, reoffended many times while under supervision in the community, continued to lack awareness as to why he committed his offenses, minimized his role in the murder, lacked genuine remorse for all his victims, and could not name any coping skills when discussing potential triggers.

The Board of Parole Hearings denied Inmate Aleo parole for three years. This was Aleo's sixth parole suitability hearing, having been previously denied parole in 2004, 2008, 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2021. Aleo may petition the Board for an earlier date if there is a change in circumstances.

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