



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: August 14, 2024  
Re: Rocci Allen Catanzarite  
Sexual Predator Denied Parole

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

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Rocci Allen Catanzarite, age 65, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during an August 13, 2024, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On March 27, 1991, at approximately 5 a.m., Catanzarite contacted the 8-year-old victim by telephone and convinced her to leave her house and meet him and her mother on the street. Catanzarite worked as a DJ with the victim's mother and he knew the victim's unlisted home telephone number and address.

Once outside, Catanzarite pulled up in a car and she got inside. While driving, Catanzarite pretended to talk with her mother on the phone and told the victim that her mother wanted her to cooperate with him. He then repeatedly sexually assaulted her. Catanzarite threatened to kill her mother if she did not cooperate. He told the victim that he had done the same things to her mother and that her mother thought the victim would also enjoy it.

During the time that the molestations were occurring, the victim's parents awoke, discovered their daughter missing and contacted police. An officer found the victim walking along a Ceres street nearly two hours after she had been reported missing. She immediately reported that she had been molested.

Detectives learned Catanzarite was living a "double life." Although married, he would spend months at a time living with several other women without his wife's knowledge. When contacted by law enforcement and told that his blood serology results (there was no DNA as we know it today back in 1992) did not exclude him as a suspect, Catanzarite fled to the state of Washington where he eluded capture until November of 1992.

In May of 1993, Catanzarite was convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of 13 counts of molesting an 8-year-old victim. The late Judge Charles V. Stone sentenced him to serve a total of 113 years in state prison for the 13 violent sex acts over a three-hour period.

Catanzarite has spent the last 31 years in prison and was made eligible for parole pursuant to California's "Elderly Parole Program." This change in the law provides that qualifying inmates who have served 20 years in continuous custody and are over the age of 50, are eligible for parole. In addition, the Board is required to give special consideration to whether age, time served, and diminished physical condition, if any, have reduced the elderly inmate's risk of violence.

A prison psychologist who interviewed Catanzarite prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that he currently posed a moderate risk for future violence if he were to be released into the community. During the parole hearing Catanzarite denied committing the crimes.

Prosecutor MacKinnon asked the Board to deny Catanzarite parole due to his need for rehabilitative programming in numerous areas including sex offender treatment and victim awareness. MacKinnon argued that the circumstances of his violent sexual assaults show a high degree of cruelty and combined with his lack of any insight and remorse make him an unreasonable risk to the community if released.

After deliberation, the Board denied parole for a period of five years, finding that Catanzarite was not credible and lacked insight into the causative factors related to his crime.

This was Catanzarite's second parole hearing. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2029 although that date may be advanced if he can demonstrate to the Board a change in circumstances.

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