



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: September 10, 2024  
Re: Michael David Beard  
Convicted Sex Offender's Parole Denied

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

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Michael David Beard, age 42, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at an August 23, 2024 parole reconsideration hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the North Kern State Prison in Delano, California. Deputy District Attorney Margot L. Roen appeared at the hearing and argued against Beard's release back on parole due to the serious nature of his parole violations and their connection to his commitment offense, the lack of insight into his crime, and his lack of self-control. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for the maximum statutory period allowed of one year.

Between January and September of 2011, Beard repeatedly sexually abused two victims, a five-year-old female and seven-year-old male. On October 12, 2012, Beard pleaded no contest to one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14 in violation of Penal Code section 288.5(a) and was sentenced to six years in state prison. On December 4, 2016, Beard was released on parole and was given numerous parole conditions, one of which was that he is not to view or possess pornography. (Notably, as part of the sexual abuse inflicted upon his victims, Beard forced them to watch pornographic movies.) A later parole condition stemming from a 2020 DUI conviction suffered by Beard was that he is not to consume or possess any alcohol.

On October 27, 2023, Beard was contacted at his residence during a Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department sex offender compliance operation and found with pornographic movies and a bottle of brandy in his bedroom. Beard was arrested and subsequently remanded back to state prison after a February 28, 2024 hearing during which the court found probable cause that Beard had violated the above listed conditions of his parole.

At the August 23, 2024 parole reconsideration hearing, Deputy District Attorney Roen argued that Beard was still a danger to public safety and, as such, should spend additional time in prison. DDA Roen cited numerous factors weighing against Beard's release on parole. For instance, she pointed out that, despite years spent attending a sex offender treatment program, Beard was still exhibiting a lack of self-control and still had not gained sufficient insight into the horrific crimes he committed against his young victims. The Board agreed and found this "mind boggling."

Ms. Roen also noted that Beard lacked solid parole plans for substance abuse and sex offender relapse prevention, and emphasized the importance of such plans, especially since the director of his sex offender treatment program told Beard's parole officer that, due to his parole violations, Beard had taken a huge step backward and needed to redo the core part of the program.

As for his lack of a substance abuse relapse prevention plan, when questioned by the Board about his DUI and the fact that he was still drinking, Beard said that, although he used alcohol to cope, he did not consider himself an addict. The Board found Beard's denial "appalling" considering his history of substance abuse and his prior convictions for drug related crimes. The Board also voiced its concern that Beard's lack of insight into his behavior and its connection to the commitment offense left him vulnerable to repeating criminal activity if paroled.

After deliberating, the Board denied Beard's parole based on the gravity of the circumstances of his parole violations and its finding that he presented an unreasonable risk to public safety if released. The Board admonished Beard, telling him that he had many unresolved issues to address before he would be considered for parole.

This was Beard's first parole reconsideration hearing. His next hearing will be held in one year.

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