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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: September 15, 2005

Re: **JOHN JOHNSON MURDER CONVICTIONS**

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Carol Shipley, ADA

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley announced today that on August 26, 2005, John Johnson of Modesto was found guilty by a jury of first degree murder, with premeditation and the personal use of a gun, and felony cruelty to animals with personal gun usage. He was then tried before the same jury on his defense of not guilty by reason of insanity. The jury rejected that defense, and found him sane on September 6, 2005. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on January 23, 2004, on Nighthawk Way in Modesto. Johnson shot his wife of twenty years, Nancy Johnson, by firing three rounds of double ought buckshot at her from close range. Nancy was struck by over twenty shotgun pellets, each of which was the size of a .32 caliber bullet. She died immediately. Johnson shot his wife because she threatened to report him to the police after he admitted being a child molester. Johnson also shot and killed the family dog, Radar.

Johnson claimed to have been insane at the time of the murder of his wife and dog, despite the fact that four court appointed doctors found him to be legally sane. The defendant's expert witness unsuccessfully attempted to convince the jury that Johnson was insane.

Johnson will return to court on October 4, 2005, for sentencing before the Honorable Edward Lacy. Johnson's maximum exposure is 50 years-to-life, plus twelve years for killing the dog.