



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: August 21, 2017  
Re: Benson Neal  
Parole Denied

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

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Benson Neal of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a July 12, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in California State Prison, Solano. Deputy District Attorney Rick Mury appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on inmate Neal's continuing lack of insight into his crime and a lack of awareness of factors which could lead to his committing further crimes of violence in the future. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 3 years.

On June 6, 1982, Inmate Neal, Frank Aleo, Frank Ford and Sharon Poma conspired to rob Dixon Flinders at his Modesto home. They went to Mr. Flinders home and first announced themselves as Drug Enforcement agents. When that was not successful in getting Mr. Flinders to open his door, they kicked it in. Frank Ford fired a single round from a .22 caliber revolver provided to him by Neal. The round entered Mr. Flinder's chest killing him. Nineteen-year-old Sharon Pitts and two infants were also in the home at the time. Inmate Neal and his co-responsibles ransacked Mr. Flinder's home expecting to find large amounts of cash. They came away with only some sea shells, a cassette player, a rifle and \$100.00.

Neal was convicted of First Degree Murder while armed with a firearm, first degree burglary and robbery and is serving a 26 years to life prison sentence. Neal had previously been denied parole six times. The last denial of three years was in 2016, but his hearing was advanced under current Board of Parole Hearings rules. Neal's next hearing may be scheduled as early as 18 months from the current denial.

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