

Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: January 9, 2019

Pa: Apitra Ladonna Hankins

Re: Anitra Ladonna Hankins

Convicted attempted murderer paroled

John Goold, Public Information Liaison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Anitra Ladonna Hankins, age 44, of Modesto, was found suitable for parole during a December 21, 2018, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney John R. Mayne travelled to the prison and appeared on behalf of the People.

Hankins was convicted in 2015 of the premeditated attempted murder of her 13-year-old autistic son, Miles. On September 26, 2010, Hankins told her son to lie down, tied him up and then repeatedly stabbed him with a knife and struck him in the head with a heavy clock. When police arrived, the victim's intestines were partially protruding outside his body and he had suffered a serious head injury. Despite this, the child ultimately survived the attack. Hankins was later convicted of premeditated attempted murder and sentenced to serve 7 years to life in state prison.

During a 2015 interview with a prison psychologist, Hankins denied any previous history of violence against her son, despite her own admissions that she had previously beaten him and had, on occasion, even used wire coat hangers.

Deputy District Attorney Mayne argued against Hankins' release and for continued confinement based on the callous nature of the crime and her failure to be forthright with the previous psychologist and with the parole board.

In granting her parole, the board found that Hankins had made substantial changes in her attitudes since her last hearing in 2017, stated to the board that her behavior was "vile," and agreed that she should not see her son unless the current professionals treating him agree that it would be in his interests. The board also believed that Hankins had realistic parole plans.

This was Hankins' second parole hearing. In 2016, she waived her right to a hearing and then, in 2017, was denied parole for three years. She was later able to have her next hearing advanced to this date.

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