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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: 9\23\04

Re: Russell Trunzo Parole Hearing

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Russell Trunzo, age 47, was found unsuitable for parole at a September 21 hearing of the State Board of Prison Terms held in San Quentin State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based upon Trunzo's lack of rehabilitation, inadequate parole plans, and his posing too great a risk to the community.

Trunzo killed his girlfriend's two year old baby four days before Christmas in 1978. Although Trunzo at first denied striking the child, claiming the child fell and hit his head, he later admitted shaking the baby and accidentally causing his head to strike the toilet seat. After the first two versions were proven to be false, Trunzo admitted to losing his temper and slapping the baby several times in the head.

Trunzo was convicted of second degree murder in 1979 and sentenced to fifteen years to life in state prison. This was his fifteenth parole hearing. The parole board found that Trunzo's inability to completely admit his responsibility for the crime showed that he didn't understand the factors which caused him to kill and that there was too great a risk that he would re-offend. Combined with the fact that he wished to be reside with his wife who ran a day care center, he posed too great a risk to the community. Trunzo will be eligible for another parole hearing in one year.