



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 12, 2013
Re: Richard Dean Morris

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Dean Morris, age 51, formally of Ceres, was found unsuitable for parole at a February 26, 2013 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, CA. Richard Morris was convicted in 1985 of First Degree Murder and is serving a twenty-five years-to-life prison sentence. This is Morris's first time to be considered for parole and release back to the community. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar appeared at the hearing and argued against the granting of parole based on Morris's continued dangerousness and his deceptive answers during the hearing. The Board agreed and denied parole for 7 more years.

In 1985, Richard Morris and his brother, Robert, strangled to death their sister-in-law, Cindy Morris, who was married to their other brother, Randall, as a result of inter-familial conflicts. On the morning of the murder, Richard and his brother, Robert, had first tried to give the victim pills to kill her. When that did not work, they tried to smother her with a pillow. When that was unsuccessful as a result of Cindy's valiant struggle to survive, Richard held her down while Robert strangled her.

During the parole hearing (at which brother Randall appeared and requested the release of his brother), Mr. Mangar argued for continued confinement based on Morris's high risk to reoffend if released back to Stanislaus County. Morris was found responsible for sixteen separate prison rules violations while in custody including assaulting another inmate, manufacturing alcohol, and possession of marijuana. Mr. Mangar stated that, 'Richard Morris can't be trusted to remain free of disciplinary problems in the community when he can't even do so in the extremely structured environment of state prison.'

Morris will be scheduled for another hearing in seven years. His brother, Robert, had a parole hearing in 2009 and was denied parole for 7 years.