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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 7, 2021
Re: Charles Ranando Stewart, Jr.
Forcible Sex Crimes Sentencing

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Charles Ranando Stewart, Jr., age 32, of Oakland, was sentenced to 35 years in prison on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Lee prosecuted the case for the People.

Between October 15, 2020 and December 23, 2020, Stewart repeatedly terrorized his 31-year-old ex-girlfriend at her home in Modesto on multiple occasions. On one day, Stewart pulled the victim out of bed by her hair, forced her to oral copulate him, raped and robbed her after strangling her. On another day, he broke into the victim's house by climbing through a window and threatened her with a knife. Stewart was eventually arrested and charged with various felony offenses stemming from the attacks.

On October 25, 2021, a jury convicted Stewart of forcible oral copulation, forcible rape, robbery, first degree residential burglary, felony domestic battery, assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury and stalking. In a subsequent court trial, Judge Ricardo Cordova also found that Stewart had suffered a prior felony conviction for second-degree robbery, which falls under California's "Three Strikes" law and was used to double the term imposed for each conviction.

During a sentencing hearing on November 30, 2021, Judge Cordova heard from the victim who told the court how Stewart's actions have negatively impacted her life. He also took into consideration Stewart's entire criminal history that began in 2007 with arrests for drug possession, violations of probation, and a 2012 conviction for felon in possession of a firearm for which he served a state prison term. Judge Cordova also noted the particularly violent nature of Stewart's conduct in this case.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Cordova sentenced Stewart to six years in prison on the forcible oral copulation charge and six years in prison on the forcible rape charge, both of which were doubled to 12 years under the "Three Strikes" law. In addition, Stewart received additional prison time on each count. All counts were ordered to be run consecutively for a total term of 35 years in state prison.

Stewart was also ordered to register with local law enforcement as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

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