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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 20, 2021
Re: Kelvin Lee Simpson
Murder conviction and prison sentence

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Kelvin Lee Simpson, age 55, of Modesto, has been convicted of the 2018 murder of his wife, Shannon Simpson, and been sentenced to life in prison. Deputy District Attorney Samuel Luzadas prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On April 3, 2018, Kelvin Simpson murdered his wife, Shannon Simpson, in their Modesto home by striking her in the head with a hammer multiple times. She also suffered additional cuts and bruises to her right hand and arm. Simpson then fled to Oakland where Oakland Police found him sitting in his car with the engine running. During a long standoff, Simpson drank almost an entire gallon of antifreeze in an attempt to kill himself. He was taken to an Oakland hospital in critical condition. He was released from the hospital on April 19, 2018, brought back to Modesto and booked into the Stanislaus County jail.

An autopsy revealed the victim died of blunt force trauma to the brain. Further police investigation located several writings by the victim titled "In the event of my death" that detailed a history of repeated domestic violence and physical abuse occurring on a regular basis over several years.

On May 27, 2021, Simpson pled guilty before Judge Ricardo Cordova to second degree murder and waived all rights to appeal his conviction in the case. Simpson also admitted a violation of felony probation for a prior 2016 domestic violence conviction in Stanislaus County involving the same victim.

At a sentencing hearing on July 6, 2021, Judge Cordova sentenced Simpson to serve a total of 19-years-to-life in state prison.

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