



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 27, 2022
Re: Joseph Robert Chapman
Murder Sentencing

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joseph Robert Chapman, age 40, of Modesto who was convicted by a jury on April 25, 2022 of murder along with two special circumstances, including committing the murder during an attempted rape and sodomy, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Deputy District Attorney Erin Schwartz prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 13, 2019, Christina Hill's body was discovered by a business owner in a parking spot behind businesses located at 18th and G St. in Modesto. Her body was badly beaten and she was naked except for her shirt and a single sock on her left foot. Near her body was a long-sleeved hooded shirt covered in blood. Surveillance video was collected from various locations nearby including the Quik Stop on La Loma Ave. In reviewing the surveillance, detectives with the Modesto Police Department noted a male, later identified to be Joseph Chapman, wearing that same long-sleeved hooded shirt inside the Quik Stop at the same time Christina Hill was inside the Quik Stop. Video further showed the defendant following Christina as she exited the parking lot of the Quik Stop and crossing Burney towards G St.

The defendant was arrested for Christina Hill's murder on May 17, 2019. Criminalists with the Department of Justice confirmed that the blood on the long-sleeved hooded shirt belonged to Christina Hill; there was also DNA on the shirt belonging to the defendant. The defendant's DNA was located underneath Christina Hill's fingernails and his sperm was found in her rectum. Christina Hill died from asphyxia due to strangulation. Other significant conditions included extensive head and neck injuries and external blunt force injuries to her torso and all four limbs.

Although no one appeared in court to give a victim impact statement, Christina Hill's father, who resides out-of-state, sent a statement to be read. He told the court that "we are thankful for the verdict. We have shared sorrow, loss of a loved daughter, [and] resentment towards Chapman." He prays Mr. Chapman is never released from custody and "life without parole" means exactly that.

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Judge Reeves then sentenced the defendant to serve life without the possibility of parole in the California Department of Corrections. He is also required to register as a sex offender for the remainder of his life.

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