



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
Jeffrey M. Laugero

**Chief Deputies**  
Marlisa Ferreira  
Wendell Emerson  
Michael D. Houston  
Mark Zahner

**Bureau of Investigation**  
Chief Terry L. Seese

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: May 6, 2022  
Re: Carol Laverne Harris  
Murder inmate granted parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Carol Laverne Harris, age 64, of Modesto was found suitable for parole during an April 7, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. Special Prosecutor Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On August 30, 2008, Harris called her son, Dasheme Hosley, and told him to "come handle" her then-husband, Karl Johnson. Harris, knowing her son's prior violent criminal record and propensity for violence, told him that Johnson had put his hands on her during an argument. When Johnson tried to leave, Harris hid his car keys in order to give her son time to arrive from the Bay Area. Hosley immediately drove to his mother's home in Modesto. When he arrived, Harris told Johnson to answer the door at which time Hosley shot and killed Johnson while Harris stood only a few feet away. Witnesses testified at trial that Harris was the actual aggressor that evening, not Johnson.

On October 22, 2010, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Harris of second-degree murder. After motions to reduce her conviction to manslaughter and for a new trial were denied, she was sentenced to serve 15 years-to-life in state prison on April 17, 2012. An appellate court upheld the conviction in 2014.

Harris's son, Dasheme Hosley, was convicted in a separate trial of first-degree murder, personal use of firearm causing death and prior convictions were found to be true. He was later sentenced to serve 80 years-to-life in state prison.

During the parole hearing on April 7th, Prosecutor MacKinnon argued against Harris's release on parole and for continued confinement based on the inmate's commitment offense which resulted in the death of her husband, her lack of credibility and her prior criminal record.

Mr. Johnson's ex-wife, daughter and son appeared at Harris's parole hearing and gave statements to the Board.

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353  
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>

Mr. Johnson's daughter shared the traumatic affect her father's death had on her childhood and her family. She was adamantly against Harris's release and believes Harris is still manipulative, deceitful and lacks remorse.

After deliberations, the Board of Parole Hearings granted parole, finding that Harris did not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety. The Board noted Harris received no rules violations during her time in prison and had actively participated in programming such as a substance abuse, AA/NA, anger management, vocational training and college courses. The Commissioners also felt that Harris had expressed significant insight into the causes of her criminal behavior and had a release plan which included transitional housing, family support and employment that mitigated any safety risk she may pose to the community.

This was Harris's second parole hearing. She was previously denied parole in 2020. The Board's decision now advances to the Decision Review Unit which has 120 days to review the grant of parole. If the Decision Review Unit approves the decision, Governor Newsom will then have 30 days to reverse, modify, refer to the full Board sitting *en banc*, or let the grant of parole stand.

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