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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 27, 2023
Re: Matthew Nicholas Krier
Sexual Predator Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Matthew Nicholas Krier, age 52, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a January 5, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran. Special Prosecutor Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Between 1992 and 1997, Krier repeatedly molested and raped his niece, starting when she was nine years old. Krier used his position as the victim's uncle and caregiver on his family's commune to commit these offenses by force and threat of bodily harm. Even after the victim told other family members, Krier continued his abuse on an almost daily basis from the time she was 9 years old until she was 14 years old. After one attack, he threatened the victim with a gun, telling her he would hurt her if she told anyone. The victim finally told a family friend who then reported Krier to law enforcement.

On July 13, 1998, Krier was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of twelve counts of lewd and lascivious conduct on child under the age of 14 years by use of force, six counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child under the age of 14 years, one count of rape, two counts of assault to commit rape, one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child, and one count of exhibiting harmful matter to a minor with the intent to sexually arouse. The jury also found the allegations that he was armed with a firearm and offenses committed by use of force, violence, duress, menace and the threat of bodily harm to be true.

On November 20, 1998, the honorable Judge David G. Vander Wall sentenced Krier to a total of 142 years to life in state prison. In 2000, the Fifth District Court of Appeals affirmed inmate Krier's conviction and the California Supreme Court denied his petition for review.

Although Krier was between 22 and 27 years old at the time he committed these crimes, a 2018 change in California law deemed him a "youthful offender" requiring the State Board of Parole Hearings to give great weight to the diminished capacity of youth as compared to adults in determining whether to keep such an inmate in prison custody or grant parole.

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A prison psychologist who interviewed him prior to the hearing found Krier still had a sexual attraction to prepubescent females. The psychologist gave the opinion that Krier posed a moderate risk for future violence if released into the community.

Prosecutor MacKinnon asked the Board to deny parole, pointing out that Krier's inadequate release plans coupled with his insufficient sex offender programming made him an unreasonable risk of danger to the community. She argued that the circumstances of the many sexual assaults show a high degree of cruelty and viciousness. Krier committed these acts against his family member who was particularly vulnerable in that the victim was being raised by extended family members in a family-dominated separatist compound. Prosecutor MacKinnon argued these facts plus his lack of insight into his pedophilia disorder made him a current threat to public safety.

The Board agreed and denied parole for five years. Despite giving great weight to Krier's age at the time of the crimes, the Board found that these factors were outweighed by his lack of self-awareness and insufficient sex offender programming. The Board found he has not come to terms with the fact that he is a pedophile and continues to minimize his conduct while exhibiting only shallow remorse.

This was Krier's first parole hearing. In August of 2021 he waived his right to a hearing for one year. Due to his age, he is eligible for elder parole consideration and may petition the Board for another hearing earlier than five years should his circumstances support it.

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