



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: April 18, 2024  
Re: Tanner Joseph Polk  
Convicted Sex Offender's Parole Denied

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

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Tanner Joseph Polk, age 45, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole at a March 14, 2024 parole reconsideration hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the North Kern State Prison in Delano, California. Deputy District Attorney Margot L. Roen appeared at the hearing and argued against Polk's release back on parole due to his numerous parole violations, the lack of respect shown to law enforcement during his most recent arrest, his issues with credibility at the parole reconsideration hearing, and his lack of significant programming. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for the maximum statutory period allowed of one year.

Between January 2009 and November 2011, Polk sexually abused his cohabiting girlfriend's daughter from the time she was 11 years old until the age of 13. A jury trial in the matter was set to begin on August 13, 2013, but Polk pleaded no contest to the charged offense of Penal Code section 288.5(a), continuous sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14. Upon entry of the no contest plea, Polk was sentenced to six years in state prison. While incarcerated for the continuous sexual abuse of a child, Polk was convicted of possession of a controlled substance while in prison and was found guilty of two serious rules violations – one for tattooing and one for possession of a controlled substance.

On January 30, 2021, Polk was released on parole with various conditions, one being that he was to have no new law violations.

On August 27, 2023, Polk was arrested in Woodland, California, after officers responded to reports of a man attacking and chasing a woman. When officers arrived on scene, they encountered Polk with the woman and, when they approached Polk and told him to step away from her, he immediately became belligerent and refused to comply with their commands. Polk yelled profanities at the officers and threatened physical violence. Fearing for their safety, the officers tased Polk and placed him in a "WRAP" restraint. Based on this arrest, Polk was found to be in violation of his parole. Due to the nature of the underlying charge of child sexual abuse, Polk was remanded to state prison, where he would await this parole reconsideration hearing.

At the March 14, 2024 hearing, Deputy District Attorney Roen argued that Polk was still a danger to public safety and should spend additional time in prison. DDA Roen cited numerous factors for Polk's continued incarceration, including that Polk did not take seriously the sex offense that sent him to prison in the first place. For instance, Polk had yet to participate in a sex offender treatment program and had in fact received two parole violations for failing to participate in such a program as a condition of his parole. Ms. Roen also pointed out Polk's proclivity toward violence, including his history of domestic violence, as well as his combative behavior toward law enforcement.

After deliberating, the Board found that, based on the gravity of the circumstances of his parole violation, Polk presented an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for the statutory maximum period of one year. The Board cited other factors in support of its decision, such as Polk's lack of significant programming, especially for his sex offense, his history of domestic violence, which he minimized at the hearing, and his lack of a sufficient parole plan. The Board encouraged Polk to engage in significant programming to address his issues and to develop a viable parole plan.

This was Polk's first parole reconsideration hearing. His next hearing will be held in one year.

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