



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woodland Child Molester Will Not Be Paroled

(Woodland, CA) – January 9, 2020 - Convicted child molester Michael Ward will remain in state prison for at least another three years. Ward’s parole hearing was heard before Board of Parole Hearings Commissioner Michelle Minor and Deputy Commissioner Cathleen Newman at the California Health Care Facility in Stockton on January 8, 2020. Ward was denied parole for the fifth time.

A Yolo County Jury convicted Ward of child molestation involving two young girls in Woodland, CA in 1996. Ward had sent pornographic Polaroid photographs through the mail to an undercover Utah Special Agent. A search warrant was obtained and other evidence was found linking Ward to two young girls whom he had photographed and molested. Ward has admitted molesting numerous other young children in Woodland. On October 17, 1997, a Yolo County judge sentenced Ward to 15 years-to-life for Lewd or Lascivious Act upon Child Under Fourteen with More Than One Victim.

Supervising Deputy District Attorney Christopher Bulkeley prosecuted the case in 1996. Chief Deputy Jonathan Raven appeared at the hearing. The mother of one of the victims attended the hearing accompanied by an advocate from the District Attorney’s Victim Services Division. In denying Ward parole, Commissioner Minor stated that Ward “still poses an unreasonable risk to public safety.” She continued listing the following reasons for the decision: Ward was unable to control his behavior before being incarcerated, he continues to minimize his role in the crimes, he has a lack of insight to the causative factors, he has a poor relapse prevention plan, he doesn’t understand the grooming behavior he utilizes, and he has unrealistic parole plans.

Ward will be eligible for parole in three years. According to District Attorney Jeff Reisig, “The result of a three-year denial means that the victim and her family’s wish, that Mr. Ward remain imprisoned for the safety of the children in our community, was met.”

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