



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 22, 2009

Contact: Jonathan Raven
Assistant Chief Deputy DA
(530) 666-8092

WOODLAND CHILD MOLESTER'S PAROLE DENIED

(Woodland, CA) Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that convicted child molester Michael Ward was denied parole for ten years after a January 22nd, 2009 hearing that was held before the Board of Prison Terms at Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy. The ten year denial imposed is new under Proposition 9, "Marsy's Law" which was recently passed by the voters in the November 2008 general election.

Ward was convicted of child molestation involving two young girls in Woodland, CA in 1996. The investigation revealed that he 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 girls. On October 17, 1997 Ward was sentenced to 15 years to life for Lewd or Lascivious Act upon Child Under Fourteen With More Than One Victim.

Supervising Deputy District Attorney Kelli Brooksby appeared at the hearing on behalf of the Yolo County District's Attorney's Office. Brooksby argued against Ward's release based upon his prior record, his lack of any insight into his criminal behavior, his complete lack of parole plans and most importantly his continuing danger to the public.

The mother of one of the victims attended the hearing accompanied by Yolo County District Attorney Victim Advocate Linda McCumber. McCumber read a written statement from the victim to the Board asking that Ward not be granted parole. The Board was appreciative of the letter from the victim.

According to District Attorney Jeff Reisig, "The result of a 10 year denial of parole means that the victim and her family will not have to travel to a prison and face Mr. Ward again for many years, which is the benefit of Marsy's Law".

###