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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 24, 2009 **Contact:** Ann Hurd, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Woodland Man Convicted of 2005 Murder of His Mother-In-Law

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on March 24, 2009, a Yolo County jury convicted 33 year old Eric Joseph Hudson of Woodland, of one count of Second Degree Murder, Personal Use of a Weapon in the commission of a felony, and one count of First Degree Burglary for his 2005 slaying of his mother-in-law, Yvonne Powell.

On July 14, 2005, Mr. Hudson went to his mother-in-law's home on Fourth Street in Woodland. Ms. Powell came to the door and opened it for her son-in-law. They got into an argument. He entered her home with an expandable baton where he clubbed her several times in the head. He then locked the door and left her to die.

The defendant and his wife, Amy Hudson, had been living in Ms. Powell's Fourth Street home until a few weeks prior to the murder. Ms. Powell had recently lost her job and was trying to sell her second home where she was staying. She told the couple of her plans to sell. They elected to move out instead of sharing the home with her because of a strained relationship. The couple were living out of their car at the time.

In the week after the murder the victim's daughter, Amy Hudson, disposed of the clothing that the defendant was wearing at the time of the murder by discarding it in dumpsters and along the highway between Woodland and Yuba City. She also disassembled the weapon and threw it into irrigation canals.

The body was not found until a week later on July 21, 2005 when officers were requested to perform a welfare check. They found the body and contacted Mr. Hudson at the Woodland Memorial Hospital where he had been being treated since July 18, 2005 for self-inflicted wounds from apparent suicide attempts. He was questioned and confessed to killing Ms. Powell.

On October 10, 2008 Amy Hudson was sentenced for her felony conviction of Accessory after the Fact to three years of probation and one year in the county jail for her participation in this crime.

"Ms. Powell may have died alone, but the jurors of Yolo County brought her the justice she deserved today." said Deputy District Attorney Martha Holzapfel.

Mr. Hudson faces a maximum of 22 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for April 22, 2009 in front of the Honorable Judge Mock.

For more information, contact Chief Deputy District Attorney Ann Hurd at 530-666-8180.

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