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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) Granted Parole for Convicted Child Murder Dean Lutz
CDC #K33604; Court Case number SC067478A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murder Dean Lutz. On September 21, 2023, BPH found that Lutz no longer poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On October 24, 1996, Lutz plead no contest to Murder in the Second Degree and Felony Child Abuse under circumstances likely to cause great bodily injury or death. These crimes involved two victims. The girls, ages 3 and 4, were sisters. The victims were not Lutz's biological children. A Kern County Judge sentenced Lutz to 16 years and 4 months-to-life.

On May 6, 1996, the Bakersfield Police Department started their investigation into what was determined to be systematic torture of these two girls. Lutz's four-year-old victim had been without oxygen for an extended period of time and died two days later. Ultimately, she died as a result of blunt force cranial trauma and blunt force trauma of varying age to her torso, head, and extremities.

Lutz's 3-year-old victim had large bruises up and down her backbone extending down to her lower back and completely covering her entire buttock. She also sustained bruising to her face, forehead, upper legs, and large circular bruises to the tops of her shoulders. The 3-year-old was thin, with her chest and rib bones showing.

The investigation revealed that Lutz and his girlfriend, the biological mother of the victims, engaged in systematic physical abuse and torture of the children. The abuse included "cold water treatments" that amounted to waterboarding. The victims were forced to lay down or were bound with straps and made to lay in a bathtub of cold water. "Cold water treatments" also included repeatedly spraying in the face with

cold water. The victims would cry, bite, claw, and scratch in an attempt to escape the bathtub. Other punishments included withholding food, placing hot sauce on their tongues, and beatings with a wooden paddle and belt on their buttocks, legs, arms, chest and back. Lutz and his girlfriend both admitted to being methamphetamine users and being high on methamphetamine on the day of the murder.

Lutz's last parole hearing was in June of 2022. The Board of Parole denied his parole for a period of three years. Six months after his hearing, Lutz petitioned to have his next parole hearing advanced. His petition was granted. Despite receiving a 3-year denial, Lutz had a new hearing with new commissioners 15 months after his last hearing date where he was found suitable for parole.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, "What Lutz did to the vulnerable, innocent victims is atrocious. I am astounded that the Board of Parole Hearings would allow an advanced hearing and grant release to this violent murderer and child abuser."

Dean Lutz:

