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Parole Denied for Convicted Child Rapist Steven Garcia *CDC #P664444; Court Case #SC078633A*

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted child rapist Steven Garcia. On March 7, 2024, BPH found that Garcia continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On September 27, 1999, the victim reported that Garcia raped her the night before. This was not the first time the victim sought help to stop the sexual assaults. Ultimately, it was discovered that Garcia sexually assaulted and abused the victim from October of 1992 to September of 1999. The victim was age 11 when the sexual abuse began. Garcia admitted to having sexual intercourse with the victim more than 100 times.

On December 10, 1999, a Kern County Jury found Garcia guilty of six counts of rape, one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child under the age of 14 and one counts of oral copulation by force. After the appellate process, a Kern County Judge sentenced Garcia to 52 years in state prison.

Despite only serving approximately 24 years of his 52-year sentence, Garcia is being considered for early release pursuant to Elder Offender Laws. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years. Garcia is currently 61 years old.

On March 7, 2024, the Board of Parole focused on Garcia's insight into his crimes and his current ability to control his sexual attraction to children. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Garcia's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Garcia's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "California's elder parole laws are damaging to communities, allowing for dangerous criminals to be considered for early release. Safety remains at the forefront as we navigate these challenging circumstances."

Steven Garcia:

