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Parole Denied for Ronald Sherman, Convicted Child Rapist Who Impregnated Victim
CDC #V55188; Kern County Court #BF103850A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted child rapist Ronald Sherman. On April 23, 2024, BPH found that Sherman continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

The victim moved with family to Bakersfield, California at the age of 8 and lived with Sherman, Sherman's girlfriend, and other minor family members. In 2001, when the victim was 12, Sherman came into her room and held her down and raped her. Two weeks later he raped her again and continued to rape her on a weekly basis. The victim said she stopped resisting after a couple of months and did not report the rapes because she was scared Sherman would kill her or she would be put up for adoption.

Ultimately, Sherman impregnated the victim. He continued to rape her throughout her pregnancy. Law enforcement and Child Protective Services were alerted when at age 13, the victim delivered a baby at a local hospital. When law enforcement requested an interview with the victim, Sherman took her to the police department and instructed the victim to make up a fake name for the baby's father. When interviewed, the victim became fearful and didn't answer the detectives' questions. Once the victim was placed with family members out of state, she admitted that Sherman was the father. Ultimately, DNA evidence proved Sherman was the father of the victim's baby.

On June 24, 2004, a Kern County Jury found Sherman guilty of continuous sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 14 and three counts of forcible molestation of a child under the age of 14. The jury also found true the special allegations that Sherman personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. On October 15, 2004, a Kern County Judge sentenced Sherman to 35 years in state prison.

At the time of the hearing, Sherman had approximately 6 years left to serve on his sentence. Sherman, age 67, was considered for early release pursuant to Elder Parole Laws. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20

years.

On April 23, 2024, the BPH conducted Sherman's initial parole hearing. The commissioners focused on Sherman's insight into his drug abuse, sexual history, insight into his crimes, and risk of sexual re-offense if released into the community. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Sherman's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Sherman's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It's unjust that Elder Parole Laws are giving the most violent offenders the opportunity of freedom. Crime victims and public safety should always come first."

Ronald Sherman:

