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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Man Who Murdered Ex-Father-in-Law
CDC #P36344; Kern County Court Case #SC065347A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Mark Tedeschi. On June 26, 2024, BPH found that Tedeschi continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On November 10, 1995, Tedeschi murdered his ex-father-in-law, Robert Glynn Leisten, in front of his own 10-year-old daughter. Tedeschi often used the child to gain access to his ex-wife and made various threats to her and family members leading up to the murder. In this occasion, the ex-father-in-law and ex-wife dropped off the child at Tedeschi's house for weekend visitation. Tedeschi became jealous and began questioning his daughter as to who was in the vehicle with her mother. Tedeschi called his ex-wife and demanded she come back to his house and get their daughter. Tedeschi then ordered his daughter to call her grandfather and tell him she needed to be picked up.

When the grandfather arrived, he honked his horn, signaling for the child to come outside. However, Tedeschi stopped her from leaving and told the child to ask for her grandfather to come inside of the house. Immediately after he entered, Tedeschi said, "You and your daughter." Tedeschi ultimately shot his ex-wife's father and daughter's grandfather. Tedeschi's daughter ran and grabbed the cordless phone. She fled the house, called 9-1-1, and hid at the neighbors' house. Tedeschi barricaded himself inside his home and was apprehended by the SWAT team after approximately 4 hours and a physical struggle. The victim was found dead at the front door. The victim suffered from not only two gunshot wounds, but blunt force injuries. He suffered a fractured nose and damage to his left eye. Prior to law enforcement entry, the inmate wrote suicide notes. One note said, "You wouldn't talk to me, this is the price you pay [ex-wife's name]...(.)"

On February 4, 1999, the Kern County District Attorney's Office proceeded to trial for Tedeschi's murder of the victim. On February 26, 1999, a Kern County Jury found Tedeschi guilty of murder in the second degree and found true that he personally used a firearm to commit the murder. On April 9, 1999, a Kern County Judge sentenced Tedeschi to 25 years to life in state prison.

On June 26, 2024, the BPH conducted Tedeschi's sixth parole hearing. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Tedeschi's credibility, facts surrounding the murder, and rehabilitative programming. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Tedeschi was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Tedeschi's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Tedeschi's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It is unfortunate yet typical for abusers to exploit shared children to reach their victims. What may begin as acts of jealousy can tragically escalate, as demonstrated in this case. Our office has effectively represented the victims at various parole hearings throughout the years and we remain hopeful of a successful outcome in the hearing to come."