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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by JAK  
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**Parole Denied for Woman Who Tortured Two Adoptive Children**  
*CDCR #WG8079; Court Case # BF183897A*

The California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted child torturer Rhonda Thompson. On March 12, 2026, BPH found that Thompson continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On January 13, 2021, at approximately 11pm, a 10-year-old girl was found walking the streets of Bakersfield by a concerned citizen. When the concerned citizen talked to the girl, she noted scratches and bruising to her body. An investigation was started and the 10-year-old victim was taken to the hospital for treatment. At the hospital, the doctor noted bruising all over her body in different stages of healing. Some of her injuries included scratches and bruising to her throat. The victim reported that her adoptive mother, Rhonda Thompson, "grabbed her like you are going to kill someone, but with only one hand." She reported being hit with objects such as a cane, belt, and broom. At the time she was seen by medical staff, she had a fractured finger from being hit by a metal belt buckle and old fractures to her back.

The investigation revealed that Thompson had also adopted an 8-year-old girl and was caring for a 6-month-old relative. Thompson's 8-year-old adoptive daughter had bruising on her arm, a scratch on the right side of her neck, bruising to her leg, and several bruises on her back. After receiving medical care, the doctor noted that the 8-year-old victim had a new and old fracture on two fingers. Both girls reported systematic abuse for a period of a year.

On September 13, 2021, Thompson pled guilty to one count of Torture. On November 4, 2021, a Kern County Judge sentenced Thompson to 7 years to life in prison.

Thompson is currently 63 years old and has served approximately 5 years in prison. On March 12, 2026,

the BPH conducted Thompson's second parole hearing. At the hearing, Thompson's commissioners focused on her insight into her systematic abuse of her two adopted children. The BPH found that Thompson was not suitable for parole because she continued to pose 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. Thompson's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Thompson's next hearing could be 18 months from now.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented; "Thompson made the deliberate choice to adopt these girls only to exploit that position of trust and power to inflict physical and emotional abuse. Justice in this case is not yet complete. This office will continue to attend parole hearings to advocate for the victims and to ensure full accountability."

Rhonda Thompson:

