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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Convicted Attempted Murderer Granted Elder Parole
CDCR #C84443; Kern County Court Case #MF010070A

The California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted attempted murderer Thomas Faulkner. On March 10, 2026, BPH found that Faulkner no longer poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On March 13, 2012, Faulkner was serving time in a Kern County prison for criminal convictions in Santa Clara and Los Angeles Counties. One of his prison sentences included an assault upon a first responder (Santa Clara County case #207523.) At approximately 3:15pm, correctional officers heard an inmate yell "help". When officers arrived at the cell, Faulkner and his cellmate were fighting. The investigation revealed that Faulkner came up behind his cellmate and began strangling him with a sheet. As a result, he sustained abrasions, bruising, redness, and swelling to his neck and head area.

On September 26, 2012, a Kern County Jury found Faulkner guilty of attempted premeditated murder and assault with a deadly weapon by a prisoner. The jury also found true that in the commission of the attempted murder, Faulkner personally caused great bodily injury to the victim and personally used a deadly or dangerous weapon. On October 25, 2012, a Kern County Judge sentenced Faulkner to 25 years to life, plus six years. After changes to California Law, in 2023, Faulkner was resentenced to serve 25 years to life on the Kern County case.

CDCR calculated Faulkner's minimum eligible parole date in 2037, but pursuant to California Elder Parole Laws, Faulkner is eligible for early release considerations. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years. Faulkner is currently 67 years old and has served approximately 27 years on his sentences.

On March 10, 2026, the BPH conducted Faulkner's initial parole hearing. Faulkner's commissioners focused on his serious health conditions, lack of insight into his criminal history, and poor institutional behavior. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Faulkner was suitable for parole and no longer posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society.

primarily based upon his serious health conditions. Faulkner will remain in prison until the review process is complete.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented; “The Board of Parole disregarded Faulkner’s criminal history and mindset, choosing instead to focus on his health condition. While an individual’s health is undeniably important, it does not warrant the premature release of an inmate when doing so compromises public safety.”