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Parole Denied for Convicted Murder who Killed Friend, Attempted to Kill Father and Children
CDC #W73781; Court Case number SC071189A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murderer Tammy Gessel. Despite the District Attorney's opposition, on March 14, 2024, BPH found that Gessel no longer poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On June 4, 1997, at 1am, law enforcement responded to a 911 call from a residence in Taft. When deputies arrived, they encountered Gessel's father covered in blood and suffering from two stab wounds to his back and a large laceration to his cheek. The father had let deputies know his adult daughter stabbed him. When approaching the house, deputies also saw Gessel's then eight-year-old son standing on the couch, covered in blood with multiple stab wounds, including a slashed open eyelid.

Law enforcement attempted to enter the house, but Gessel blocked the door. Deputies went to the rear of the residence and found Gessel's daughter, then age nine, lying face down and covered in blood from multiple stab wounds. It appeared that she had tried to crawl away from the house. A short distance away, deputies found Billy Enos, a friend of Gessel, deceased at the scene.

When law enforcement entered the house, they saw blood covering the hallway floor and walls. Gessel was sitting on the ground near the front door with two self-inflicted stab wounds. Gessel admitted to the murder and the stabbings. At the time, she believed she was saving her family from demonic possessions. Gessel admitted using methamphetamine the morning of the murder.

On April 1, 1998, Gessel pled guilty to one count of murder in the second degree of Enos, with personal use of a knife, and three counts of attempted murder with personal use of a knife for the stabbing of her father and two children. On April 29, 1998, a Kern County Judge sentenced Gessel to 13 years plus 15 years-to-life in state prison.

On March 20, 2024, the Board of Parole focused on Gessel's insight into violence and her substance abuse and mental health history. This hearing was Gessel's third parole hearing. The Kern County District

Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Gessel was suitable for parole because she no longer posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It's upsetting that Gessel will have a chance at freedom while one life has been taken, and three others were damaged forever."

Tammy Gessel:

