



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
C O U N T Y O F K E R N

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 18, 2024
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Gina Nargie
(661) 868-2340
DDA David McKillop
(661) 868-2330

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #24-127

Parole Denied After Board of Parole Reverses Grant Decision for Attempted Murderer
CDCR #J44645; Kern County Court Case #SC074125A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) reversed their grant of parole to Nicholas Phillips, age 69. On August 29, 2024, BPH found that Phillips 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 and Phillips were in a romantic relationship for 2 ½ years. In October of 1997, the relationship ended, and Phillips moved out of the victim's house. During, the six months leading up to the end of their relationship, Phillips abused and terrorized the victim approximately 20-30 times. On the day before their break-up, Phillips strangled the victim with a television cord.

On the evening of October 24, 1997, Phillips entered the victim's home through a closed window. He found the victim, grabbed her by the neck and drug her down the hallway into the bathroom. He threw her on the floor and pulled out a hook blade knife and began cutting and slashing the victim. He repeatedly slashed her neck, breasts, chest, stomach, and back. When the victim was found, she had trouble speaking due to the injury to her throat. The victim needed 132 stitches and staples to close all of her wounds.

On October 14, 1998, a Kern County jury found Phillips guilty of attempted premeditated murder, intentional disfigurement (Aggravated Mayhem), and assault with a deadly weapon. The jury also found true the special allegations that Phillips used a knife and personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. On November 10, 1998, a Kern County Judge sentenced Phillips to serve 25 years to life, plus an additional 7 years. As a result of changes to the law, in 2023, Phillips' sentence was modified to 25 years to life, plus an additional 6 years.

On November 1, 2023, the BPH conducted Phillips initial parole hearing. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Phillips' was suitable for parole and

no longer posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society, despite having higher-moderate risk rating.

After parole was granted the BPH received information that prompted an investigation. In January of 2024, Phillips' grant of parole was reversed, and he was given a new parole hearing date.

On August 29, 2024, the BPH conducted Phillips' new initial hearing. The focus at the hearing was steps Phillips' had taken to help other inmates circumvent paying crime victims' restitution as recently as 2023. Phillips has served approximately 26 years in state prison. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The BPH found that Phillips 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. Phillips' commissioners issued a three-year denial.

"Phillips committed a heinous crime, and it remains crucial that he faces the consequences for his actions. Given his higher-moderate risk classification, parole should never have been granted in the first place. However, after a long battle, I'm pleased with the final outcome."

Nicholas Phillips:

