



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

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PORTERVILLE MAN DENIED PAROLE FOR 1993 MURDER

On April 25, 2017, at Corcoran State Prison, a California parole board denied parole for James Ray Carlin, age 50, for the murder and robbery of a man in Porterville in 1993. Carlin received a 3 year denial and is not eligible for another hearing until 2020.

In April of 1993, a neighbor of the adult male victim requested a welfare check because she had not seen him in a few days. When officers arrived, they found the victim lying on the bed with duct tape around his ankles, legs, wrists, waist, mouth, eyes, and head, and the house ransacked. It was determined that the physical and emotional stress and trauma of struggling to breathe caused a heart attack. Carlin and co-defendant, Starla Richmond, age 46, told friends they went to the victim "to slap him around a little" and rob him of money, drugs, and jewelry in retaliation for alleged conduct towards Richmond. After committing the crime, Carlin and Richmond engaged in sexual intercourse and took a shower. They then left food for the victim's dog and took his car so it would look like he was not home.

In March of 1994, Carlin was found guilty of murder and first-degree residential robbery and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Richmond was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison. She was paroled in 2011.

The District Attorney's Office routinely attends parole hearings and a Deputy District Attorney argued against the inmate's release in this case.

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