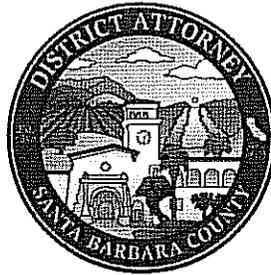


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 11-78

RELEASE NUMBER

December 5, 2011

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce Dudley* JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stephen Foley Stephen Foley, Chief Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT PERSON (805) 346-7527

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

December 5, 2011

Re: Update on the Placement of Sexually Violent Predator in Santa Barbara County

In a minute order dated December 1, 2011, Placer County Judge, James Garbolino, wrote that "placement with Mr. Karsai's family has now become unavailable." Judge James Garbolino also wrote that "the court will look to counties other than the county of domicile."

Today in open court, Judge Garbolino directed Liberty Healthcare to search for placement options in counties other than Santa Barbara County. He also issued a gag order prohibiting any public comments about future potential placements.

In 1974, Tibor Karsai, at age 22, was convicted in Santa Barbara County of forcible rape. He was later paroled to San Luis Obispo County and lived in Morro Bay.

In February 1980, while working as a truck driver, he made a haul to Placer County. While there he committed a forcible sex crime. He was convicted in Placer County and sentenced to 26 years in state prison.

In 1998, after Mr. Karsai completed his prison time, the Placer County District Attorney's Office filed a petition to have him remain in custody as a Sexually Violent Predator. The petition was found true and Mr. Karsai has remained a Sexually Violent Predator ever since. Under the prior law, the Placer County District Attorney's Office had to re-petition the court every two years to have Mr. Karsai remain in custody.

The most recent petition was filed in 2006. We learned from the Placer County District Attorney's Office that Mr. Karsai's most recent jury trial resulted in a hung jury. After the hung jury, Mr. Karsai admitted that he was a Sexually Violent Predator. In exchange for that admission, the Placer County District Attorney's Office agreed to let Mr. Karsai have an expedited hearing for him to request a release through the CONREP program. At the CONREP release hearing, the Placer County District Attorney's Office opposed Mr. Karsai's release. Judge Garbolino granted Mr. Karsai's release despite the prosecution's opposition.

As indicated above, this office is now prohibited from making any public comments about future potential placements.

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