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### PRESS RELEASE

#### SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR TRANSFERRED TO SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced:

On March 29, 2021, San Francisco Superior Court held a placement hearing for Sexually Violent Predator Charles Leroy Christman, age 76, who was previously released to live at 4018 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Napa County. The Court ruled that Mr. Christman will be transferred to a new placement in San Francisco and that an order will require that the transfer occur on or before April 25, 2021. The residents of San Francisco were notified but there were no letters, comments or attendees.

Mr. Christman, who has no ties to the Napa Community, was previously released to Napa County despite strong public opposition. The community was universally opposed to the placement, evidenced by over 500 letters submitted in opposition and a petition containing 793 signatures submitted by our office. Sixty-two children were identified as living within a one-mile radius of the home and two schools were in close proximity. The Napa County District Attorney's Office attended all hearings in San Francisco Superior Court and consistently advocated that Mr. Christman would be better placed in San Francisco where his crimes occurred.

Deputy District Attorney Agnes Dziadur, who handled the case, stated: "This change of heart by the San Francisco Superior Court is a testament to the commitment of our office to notify the Napa community, provide a mechanism for neighborhood voices to be amplified and the patience to move through the proper procedures to ensure that Mr. Christman has an appropriate placement - outside of Napa County."

Mr. Christman has been classified as a Sexually Violent Predator due to his prior criminal record and diagnosis of pedophilia. He has been committed to the California Department of Mental Health as a Sexually Violent Predator since 1997. Mr. Christman has a long history of sexually assaulting young boys, and his committing crimes included two counts of felony violations of California Penal Code section 288(a), Lewd and Lascivious Acts on a Child Under 14. The male victims of his prior crimes range from 7 to 14 years old. Mr. Christman was most recently previously released, to Walnut Creek, California, in 2015. He violated the terms of his release and was recommitted to Coalinga State Hospital for the past five years.

In 1996, the Sexually Violent Predator Act was enacted, which provides for the commitment of certain violent sex offenders to the state mental hospital following the completion of their prison sentences. The Sexually Violent Predator Act requires that several criteria be met before a sex offender may be committed to the Department of State Hospitals for sex offender treatment for an indeterminate term. First, the offender must have been convicted of a violent felony sex offense. Second, the offender must have a diagnosed mental disorder. Third, the offender must be likely to commit further sexually violent predatory offenses. This type of litigation is targeted at the most serious sex offenders.

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.