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NEWS RELEASE



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Full Parole Board Denies Early Release for Convicted Rapist Andrew Luster

VENTURA, Calif. – The full Board of Parole Hearings panel has reversed a previous decision finding inmate Andrew Stuart Luster (DOB 12/15/63) suitable for parole. In August, a two-person parole panel granted Luster's early release. District Attorney Erik Nasarenko believes the August decision was based on significant errors of fact surrounding Luster's offenses. In support of reversing the parole grant, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office submitted a letter (link below) to the full (En Banc) panel outlining these significant errors of fact.

"Our office stands firmly against the release of Andrew Luster," said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "His heinous acts, which include drugging and raping his victims, warrant a full and complete prison sentence. During his time in state prison, Luster has continued to minimize his conduct and releasing him would be a grave injustice to the survivors and a threat to public safety."

Luster is eligible for another parole hearing tentatively set for April 2025.

Known to the public as the heir to the Max Factor cosmetics fortune, Luster was in his early 30's when he preyed upon young women, primarily in college bars. Luster drugged his victims with gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), a highly dangerous drug banned in the United States, primarily because it is a drug of choice for rapists. After rendering his victims into a life-threatening state of unconsciousness, Luster engaged in sadistic sexual abuse of their comatose bodies. In two of the attacks, Luster recorded his rape and sexual abuse of the victims.

Luster's crimes occurred over a four-year span, from October 1996, through July 2000. His arrest, prosecution, and trial were the subjects of intense media scrutiny. That scrutiny intensified when Luster fled to Mexico during his trial, only to be captured months later by Duane "The Dog" Chapman. Luster was convicted of 86 felony counts which included poisoning, rape, sodomy, and oral copulation of unconscious victims.

“In my 27 years as a prosecutor, Luster remains one of the most dangerous rapists I have ever prosecuted,” Senior Deputy District Attorney and original Luster prosecutor Tony Wold said. “Unfortunately, even if parole continues to be denied, Luster will be released from prison in approximately two years. It is the intention of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office to make sure the public is protected from him for as long as the law allows.”

Andrew Luster is scheduled to complete his sentence on October 31, 2026.

Members of the media can download the letter submitted to the En Banc Board of Parole Hearings at this link: <https://we.tl/t-qOtFMfw1zA>