



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



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### District Attorney Opposes Early Release for Serial Rapist Andrew Luster

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that he will continue to oppose the early release of Andrew Stuart Luster. In 2003, Luster was convicted of drugging and raping three unconscious victims at his Ventura County beachfront home. He was originally sentenced to 124 years in prison, a sentence that was reduced to 50 years in 2013 despite the vehement opposition of prosecutors. During his trial, Luster fled the country, only to be captured by bounty hunter Duane “The Dog” Chapman.

In August of 2024, a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Board granted Luster early release on parole, despite the objections of all three victims, who appeared at the hearing and spoke against the early release. The Ventura County District Attorney’s office successfully challenged the Board’s decision, which was later reversed by a majority of parole board commissioners. Prosecutors successfully argued that Luster continued to misrepresent the nature of his crimes, lacked rehabilitation, and remains a threat to public safety.

By operation of law, another hearing to consider Luster’s early release was automatically set for April 29, 2025. Prosecutors and victims will again attend the hearing and seek to prevent Luster’s early release.

“We will continue to strenuously oppose any early release from state prison,” said District Attorney Nasarenko. “Luster’s statements to the parole board demonstrate that he remains unremorseful for his crimes and unworthy of parole.”

Senior Deputy District Anthony Wold, who originally prosecuted Luster during his trial, will attend the April 29, 2025, hearing along with the victims. If forced to serve out his full sentence, Luster will not be released until late 2026.

“By drugging his victims into a coma-like state, Andrew Luster played Russian roulette with the lives of his victims so he could abuse their comatose bodies,” Mr. Wold said. “Even now, he

attempts to rewrite the history of his heinous crimes to falsely mitigate his culpability to gain early release. He remains a highly dangerous sexual predator. We continue to maintain he should serve his full sentence. He's earned it."