



News Release
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PPB's August 2026 Parole Recommendation for Verna Stafford

(OKLAHOMA CITY, OK) – At its August 2026 meeting, the Pardon and Parole Board was unified in condemning Verna Stafford's participation in a horrific crime spree but divided on the appropriate use of its parole recommendation authority 48 years after those crimes. That difference was reflected in a 3-2 vote, as well as the individual viewpoints expressed by members during deliberations.

If the Board's recommendation is followed, Ms. Stafford will be ineligible for parole consideration on her next life sentence for 15 years, at the age of 88 years old. In reaching its recommendation, the Board gave special consideration to victims' families by granting additional time for objection, members on both sides expressed earnest belief that their votes served the public interest, and the Board clearly communicated that recommending Ms. Stafford's release was neither legally permissible nor consistent with its intentions.