



Riverside County District Attorney  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **CHILD KILLER COULD BE PAROLED TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

RIVERSIDE – The murderer of a 3-year-old girl with no past ties to Riverside County is possibly going to be paroled to a group home in Good Hope, a move Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco is asking the Board of Supervisors to oppose.

“The state is taking a tremendous risk by placing this very dangerous man into our community and by doing so it puts thousands of our children at risk,” Pacheco said.

In 1987, Donald Schmidt – then 16 years old – sodomized and murdered a 3-year-old girl in the Santa Cruz County city of Lompico. After the brutal sexual abuse, Schmidt drowned the little girl in a bathtub in her own home. Schmidt was convicted of the murder and, because of his age, was sentenced to a juvenile detention facility.

Now, 23 years later, Schmidt is scheduled to be paroled and placed back into the community. Other counties in California have successfully opposed his release and now there is a strong possibility that Schmidt, 38, could be placed into a halfway house for registered sex offenders on Floral Avenue in Good Hope, an unincorporated area along Highway 74, between Lake Elsinore and Perris. Schmidt has never lived in Riverside County. His only known connection is a substance abuse sponsor who lives in Lake Elsinore.

A hearing by the state juvenile parole board is expected possibly as early as this week, at which time Schmidt could be sent to Riverside County.

Pacheco is asking the county Board of Supervisors to prepare an emergency ordinance regulating all group homes, as well as to draft and send a resolution opposing Schmidt’s placement to Riverside County.

“The danger of having a child killer like this in our backyard cannot be ignored,” said Board Chairman and Fifth District Supervisor Marion Ashley. “I am committed to preventing his placement here.”

Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone said: “We need to deal with this child murderer in a way that doesn’t endanger the citizens of Riverside County. I would be outraged if he was placed near my family and I would expect every other Riverside County family to feel the same way.”

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