



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**JUDGE DENIES REQUEST BY LOUISE TURPIN'S DEFENSE ATTORNEY  
TO FIND HER ELIGIBLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION**

**RIVERSIDE** – Today, Oct. 5, 2018, Louise Turpin's defense attorney requested the court find her eligible for mental health diversion based on an alleged diagnosis of Histrionic Personality Disorder. After hearing arguments from both our prosecutor and the defense attorney, the court denied the request without prejudice. The court found that Louise Turpin posed an unreasonable risk to the public within the meaning of Penal Code section 1001.36, and was not suitable for the diversionary program.

Mental health treatment is an important component of our justice system. However, as our prosecutor argued this morning, these types of crimes, which include our most vulnerable victims and pose a significant threat to public safety, should not be granted pre-plea diversion that could result in the court's dismissal of all charges. As a result, the District Attorney's Office agrees with the court's decision that Louise Turpin is not a suitable candidate for mental health diversion.

As background, Penal Code section 1001.36 was enacted in June 2018, when the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1810, instituting a mental health diversion program for criminal defendants. As a result, all defendants who have a diagnosed mental disorder (except for pedophilia, antisocial personality disorder, and borderline personality disorder) are eligible to have their criminal cases put on hold to undergo mental health treatment. If they successfully complete the program, they are entitled to a dismissal of all charges. In September, California's Governor signed into law Senate Bill 215 (effective Jan. 1, 2019), which modifies Penal Code section 1001.36 to exclude some crimes, including murder, rape, and most sex crimes, from being diverted. However, Louise Turpin's alleged crimes are eligible under both the current and revised statute.

David and Louise Turpin are next scheduled for a trial readiness conference in case RIF1800348 on Nov. 30, 2018, in Dept. 44 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

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