

LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE AND DEATH DEFENDANTS

Mendocino County District Attorney's Office

"Murder w/ SC" = One or more counts of murder in the first degree with one or more proven special circumstances

"LWOP" = Life in state prison without the possibility of parole

Defendant	CDC#	Trial Attorney	Primary Conviction	Sentence	Orig. J&S	Prison Housing	Notes/Comments
Robert Danielson		Harris	Murder w/ SC	Death	Nov. 1986	Deceased	Found guilty by jury of the July 1982 execution-style robbery and murder of retirees Benjamin and Edith Shaffer, who had been camping in their motor home at Manchester while passing through Mendocino County. The jury further recommended imposition of the death penalty. Danielson committed suicide on September 7, 1995 while awaiting his execution on Death Row at San Quentin.
Richard Dean Clark	D73800	AG	Murder w/ SC	Death	Dec. 1987	San Quentin Death Row	Found guilty by jury of the July 1985 rape, stabbing and bludgeoning death of Rosie Grover, age 15 years, with the jury further recommending the death penalty. Rosie Grover was a 15-year-old Ukiah student at the time of her death. Clark remains on Death Row. See http://kidnappingmurderandmayhem.blogspot.com/2010/07/murder-on-doolan-creek.html
Thomas Marston	D20004	Rackauckas	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	Dec. 1985	Vacaville	Found guilty by jury of the 1984 murders of Jack Tomlinson and Jan Me in an abortive marijuana deal turned robbery.
Leif Berkson	J55735	Basner	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	March 1995	Chowchilla	Found guilty by jury of having committed the 1993 murder of Covelo rancher Harvey Lee Boynton while fleeing from one or more burglaries. Boynton was the former owner of the Willits Perko's and a community leader.

This is a listing of defendants who have been sentenced from Mendocino County to life in state prison without the possibility of parole or to death.

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Gerald Lester	K81962	Massini	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	Nov. 1997	Vacaville	Found guilty by jury of murdering a Fort Bragg family of four in 1986, acts that included the near decapitation causing death to a 5-year old child. Lester is the former president of the Vallejo chapter of the Hells Angels. A co-defendant, Charles Diaz, the Vallejo chapter vice-president, was separately convicted and sentenced to serve 26-years to life in state prison. Overall prosecution “roadmaps” developed by David Eyster.
Christopher McCoy	P42455	Martin	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	June 1999	Soledad	Found guilty by jury of having committed the 1998 robbery and murder of 44-year old Louis Pearson on Lake Ridge Road.
Johann Schmidt	T75979	Faulder	Murder w/ SC	LWOP	August 2002	Chowchilla	Found guilty by jury of having tortured and murdered 64-year old Christa Amo, a Willits resident. A co-defendant, Amy Andrews, was separately convicted and sentenced to 15-years to life in state prison.
Howard Raff	F79476	Nerli	Murder w/SC	LWOP	July 2007	Stockton	Found guilty by jury of the murder of a former girlfriend, then 60-year old Virginia Larkin, in the law office of the late Ukiah attorney, Hugh Preston, over Raff's \$200/month child support obligation which Raff had been dodging for 22-years. Ms. Larkin was Mr. Preston's legal secretary and the mother of Raff's child.

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