

JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2400
dao@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Website

<http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

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Contact: Abel Hung (831) 454-2400

PAROLE DENIED FOR SUSPECT IN 1973 HOMICIDE

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that Wilfried Willie Brown was denied parole in a hearing held on June 6, 2019 at San Quentin State Prison. The 62-year-old Brown is serving a life sentence for the brutal rape and murder of 79-year-old Ida Stine, in 1973.

On February 5, 1973, Brown found his way into Stine's residence, as he was selling soap door-to-door. While inside, Stine treated Brown to coffee and cookies, talked with him about religion, and even prayed for the 16-year-old Brown. Following these acts of kindness, Brown beat, raped, burned, and strangled and eventually drowned his victim. Following the murder, he left his victim in a bathtub filled with scalding water, causing burns to her body. After committing this brutal crime, Brown took unsuccessful steps to remove his fingerprints from the crime scene by wiping down the doorknobs, shower faucet and a coffee cup with a towel. Brown then calmly walked out of the house, rejoined his co-workers, and went on with his day as if nothing had happened. Brown was apprehended seven days later by the Capitola Police Department. He was then charged, prosecuted, and ultimately convicted of this horrific crime and sentenced to prison on April 27, 1973.

Assistant District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung represented the victim, and the People of Santa Cruz County, at the hearing and successfully argued against Brown's release. The Board agreed with Mr. Hung that Brown is no closer to understanding his motivations and triggers for committing such a horrific crime than he was when he first entered prison custody over 46 years ago. In addition, it was determined that he continues to be an extreme risk to the safety of the general public. Brown's parole was denied for the 16th time and he will be eligible again in 2024.