



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Gerald C. Benito
District Attorney

Daniel E. Flynn
Assistant District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE
July 23, 2008

DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO INVESTIGATE JAIL INCIDENT

Last night, the Shasta County Sheriff's Office invoked the County's Multijurisdictional Critical Incident Protocol after inmate Victoria Rose Sherman, age 21 years, was found hanging in her cell at the Shasta County Jail. Ms. Sherman has been an inmate at the jail for about 3 years. Recently, a jury convicted Ms. Sherman of first degree murder with a special circumstance of lying in wait in the 2005 killing of Leo Rapp. She was awaiting sentencing before the court where she faces a potential sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Her attorney had also filed a Motion for a New Trial that had yet to be heard.

It is common practice for the protocol to be implemented for critical jail incidents. The protocol provides for an "outside agency" to lead the investigation to avoid any appearance of bias by the agency involved in the critical incident. Generally, the Redding Police Department leads the investigation of these matters in the jail. However, because the Redding Police Department investigated the murder of which Ms. Sherman was convicted, the District Attorney's Office was asked to lead the investigation. Numerous law enforcement officers from the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations, the Redding Police Department and the Sheriff's Office are investigating this matter.

Ms. Sherman's medical condition is critical. Her condition appears to be a result of an attempted suicide. A note was found on her person at the jail. The investigation will continue.

For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito or District Attorney Chief Investigator Dan Kartchner at 245-6310 or Sheriff Tom Bosenko at 245-6167.