



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JAMES D. SIMSON
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 12, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DA Cynthia Zimmer (661) 868-2716
DDA Joseph Kinzel (661) 868-1131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release: #35

Re: “EASTSIDE RAPIST” BILLY RAY JOHNSON APPEAL DENIED

The 5th District Court of Appeal denied the appeal filed by convicted “Eastside rapist” Billy Ray Johnson on July 11, 2019. Johnson was convicted in 2015 of 24 counts involving forcible rapes, home-invasion robberies and other crimes after a three-month trial presented by now-District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer.

In its written opinion, the Court of Appeal noted that the evidence of Johnson’s guilt was “simply overwhelming.” The convictions on all counts were affirmed. The case will return to the Kern County Superior Court to allow the trial judge to consider newly relaxed laws on firearm use in determining whether to reduce a portion of Johnson’s sentence pertaining to firearm-related crimes.

Johnson’s sentence of Life in prison without the possibility of parole and multiple additional life sentences remain in place after the denial of his appeal. The 5th District Court of Appeals case number is F071640.

Johnson’s crimes occurred during the summer of 2013, when he raped three women, tried to rape a fourth, and sexually assaulted a child during July and August of 2013. Johnson used duct tape and zip ties to restrain victims, and threatened children of the victims during his crimes. In total, the crimes affected 9 victims.

Advised of the denial of Johnson’s appeal, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: “Johnson’s crimes were devastating to the victims that suffered through them, and the entire community was in fear in 2013 as his repeated offenses accumulated. I am proud of the role I was able to play in ensuring that Johnson received a fair trial and was ultimately found guilty of all charges.”

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer is available today for comments on the denial of the appeal.