

# **\*NEWS RELEASE \***

## **PRUNEDALE MAN SENTENCED FOR PATRICIDE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 27, 2016**

**CONTACT: Scott Donahue, Deputy District Attorney  
(831) 755-5070**

---

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Matthew Roberts, age 35, of Salinas, received a sentence of 22 years in prison, imposed by Judge Carrie Panetta yesterday, for the voluntary manslaughter of the defendant's father, financial elder abuse, and additional enhancements for a prior violent conviction. The defendant's plea to voluntary manslaughter constitutes a strike offense under California's Three Strikes Law.

On February 16, 2015, Salinas police officers discovered the body of victim Jerry Roberts, age 69, in a box within a travel trailer parked in front of the victim's Salinas residence. His body was wrapped in plastic and bed sheets. Officers responded because the victim's daughter became concerned when she was not able to contact her father for over a week to include his recent birthday. The investigation led to the arrest of the victim's son Matthew Roberts who lived with the victim. Materials used to wrap the victim's body matched items found in the Robert's house where they both lived. The medical examiner determined the cause of the victim's death was a broken neck and estimated the time of death occurred seven to ten days before his body was found. Investigators discovered the defendant used the victim's truck and withdrew money from his bank account after the victim died.

The precise circumstances of Jerry Robert's death are unknown, but there were signs of a struggle in the house, the defendant was the only other person who lived in the house with his father, the defendant lied to a family member and police about his father's whereabouts, and the defendant accessed his father's bank accounts during a time his father was likely deceased. All of these circumstances pointed to Matthew Robert's culpability for his father's death.

The case was investigated by Salinas Detective Michael Rivera and former Salinas Detective Dale Fors.