

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

HALL OF JUSTICE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

FELONY COMPLAINT  
CASE SUMMARY

vs.

DA NO: 220712660  
CEN  
EGS701 GGR WARR

GARY G RAMIREZ (06/04/1947),  
21 MAKALANI PLACE MAKAWAO HI 96768

Defendant(s).

C A S E S U M M A R Y

Count	Charge	Charge Range	Defendant	Allegation	Alleg. Effect
1	PC187(a)	see code	Gary G Ramirez	PC12022(b)(1) PC190.2(a)(17) PC190.2(a)(17)	1 YEAR LWOP LWOP

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

HALL OF JUSTICE

COMPLAINT FOR ARREST WARRANT(S)  
GARY G RAMIREZ EGS701

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GARY G RAMIREZ (06/04/1947),  
21 MAKALANI PLACE MAKAWAO HI 96768

Defendant(s).

FELONY COMPLAINT

DA NO: 220712660

CEN

EGS701 GGR WARR

The undersigned is informed and believes that:

**COUNT 1**

On or about September 3, 1982, in the County of Santa Clara, State of California, the crime of MURDER, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 187(a), a Felony, was committed by GARY G RAMIREZ who did unlawfully and with malice aforethought, kill Karen Stitt, a human being.

(CJIC-AADW, JRS-VS) It is further alleged that at the time of and in the commission and attempted commission of the offense charged above, the defendant, GARY G RAMIREZ, personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a(n) knife, within the meaning of Penal Code section 12022(b)(1).

It is also alleged that probation shall not be granted to the defendant within the meaning of Penal Code section 1203(e)(2).

(CJIC-SPC, JRS-QJ) It is further alleged that the murder of Karen Stitt was committed while the defendant, GARY G RAMIREZ, was engaged in and was an accomplice in the commission, the attempted commission, and the immediate flight after the commission and attempted commission, of a felony, Rape in Violation of Penal Code section 261, within the meaning of Penal Code section 190.2(a)(17)(iii).

(CJIC-SPC, JRS-QJ) It is further alleged that the murder of Karen Stitt was committed while the defendant, GARY G RAMIREZ, was engaged in and was an accomplice in the commission, the attempted commission, and the immediate flight after the commission and attempted commission, of a felony, Kidnapping in Violation of Penal Code sections 207 and 209, within the meaning of Penal Code section 190.2(a)(17)(ii).

Any defendant, including a juvenile, who is convicted of and pleads guilty and no contest to any felony offense, including any attempt to commit the offense, charged in this complaint or information is required to provide buccal swab samples, right thumbprints and a full palm print impression of each hand, and any blood specimens or other biological samples required pursuant to the DNA and Forensic Identification Database and Data Bank Act of 1998 and Penal Code section 296, et seq.

Further, attached and incorporated by reference are official reports and documents of a law enforcement agency which the complainant believes establish probable cause for the arrest of defendant GARY G RAMIREZ, for the above-listed crimes. Wherefore, A WARRANT OF ARREST IS REQUESTED.

Complainant therefore requests that the defendant(s) be dealt with according to law.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.

Executed on August 1, 2022, in SANTA CLARA County, California.

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(Hutchison 16662)  
SDPS (408) 730-7209 8240258 SDPS  
BAKER/ D399/ FELONY/ LT

Cash or Bond \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Warrant Received for Service by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**  
**SUSPECT: GARY GENE RAMIREZ (DOB 06/04/1947)**  
**SUNNYVALE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CASE #CR82-40258**  
**Detective Matthew Hutchison #16662**

**Investigation:**

I, Detective Hutchison, am currently investigating the murder of Karen Stitt in the City of Sunnyvale, California, on September 3, 1982. The information below is either personally known to me or contained in photographs, recordings, official reports, and other materials contained in the case file that I have personally reviewed.

**Summary of Offense**

On the evening of Thursday, September 2, 1982, 15-year-old Karen Stitt (DOB 7/25/1967) took a bus from her home in Palo Alto to Sunnyvale, California, to meet her 17-year-old boyfriend [REDACTED]. The two met between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. at the 7-11 convenience store near the intersection of E. El Camino Real and Wolfe Rd., across the street from the Woolworth Garden Center at 861 E. El Camino Real. Karen and [REDACTED] got drinks at the 7-11, walked north to the Golfland miniature golf course, and then walked several blocks northeast to Ponderosa Elementary School. Around midnight, [REDACTED] walked Karen from the elementary school back to the area of El Camino Real and Wolfe Rd. so she could ride the bus back to Palo Alto. David turned and left Karen alone as she walked toward the bus stop at approximately midnight on Friday, September 3, 1982. She was last seen south of the intersection, walking toward the bus stop on El Camino Real. [REDACTED] later told police that he felt bad about leaving her alone, but he did not want to get in trouble with his parents for being home late.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. on September 3, 1982, Steven Bound, a truck driver, was making a delivery to the Woolworth Garden Center. During his delivery, Mr. Bound saw what he believed was a nude female lying in the bushes at the base of a cinderblock retaining wall along the Garden Center driveway. He contacted the Woolworth Garden Center management, who then called the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety.

Arriving officers determined the nude female, later identified as Karen Stitt, was deceased with numerous stab wounds. The scene was processed for evidence and items located around and on the body were collected. Her wrists were bound behind her back with what was later determined to be Karen's own shirt. A dark jacket, also later confirmed to belong to the victim, was tied around her left ankle. A blood stain was found on top of the cinderblock wall, just above the victim's body.

The Medical Examiner, Dr. Angelo Ozoa, conducted Karen Stitt's autopsy on September 4, 1982. Dr. Ozoa collected vaginal swabs from the victim and identified 59 stab wounds to her neck, chest, abdomen and back. The neck stab wounds punctured the victim's larynx, trachea and esophagus. Eighteen of the chest stab wounds perforated the victim's heart and ten perforated the victim's lungs. Dr. Ozoa determined the cause of death to be "stab wounds to the chest and neck."

The bus stop was located approximately 100 yards from the location where Karen's body was discovered. A review of the crime scene photos and video showed that leaves and dirt around her feet had been disturbed and kicked, suggesting that she was still alive when her body was left there. Consequently, it appears her murder was committed while the perpetrator was engaged in the commission of a kidnapping, a special circumstance under Pen. Code § 190.2(a)(17)(ii).

Despite extensive investigation, detectives were unable to identify a suspect. The case went cold, and no leads emerged over the ensuing 20 years.

### **DNA Analysis**

In 2000, after the advent of DNA analysis, swabs taken from the scene as well as items collected from Karen's body were sent to the Santa Clara County Crime laboratory. The Crime Lab developed a DNA profile belonging to an unknown male from the blood stain located above the victim on the cinderblock wall.

The same unknown male DNA profile was also developed from a cutting taken from the victim's jacket which had been tied around her left ankle. A partial unknown male y-STR DNA profile was developed from sperm cells found on vaginal slides taken during the victim's autopsy. The partial y-STR DNA profile developed from the vaginal slides was consistent with the y-STR DNA profile developed from the cinderblock wall blood stain and victim's jacket.

DNA was obtained from Karen's boyfriend [REDACTED] and he was excluded as the source of the unknown male DNA profile developed from the sperm cell analysis on the vaginal slides, Karen's jacket and the blood stain on the cinderblock wall. Due to Karen's body being nude, the presence of a DNA profile on the vaginal slide being consistent with the unknown male blood at the crime scene, and [REDACTED] being excluded from the vaginal slide DNA, it appears that Karen's murder was committed while the perpetrator was engaged in the commission of a rape, a special circumstance under Pen. Code § 190.2(a)(17)(iii).

The DNA profile from the cinderblock wall blood and victim's jacket was entered into CODIS with no matches as of the date of this affidavit.

### **Investigation of the Ramirez Family**

In 2021 I received information that a son of Rose Aguilera Ramirez may have committed the murder of Karen Stitt. I am not relying on this information to establish probable cause and do not want the court to consider it for that purpose. It is mentioned only to explain why I began investigating the Ramirez family to identify a potential suspect in this murder.

Using publicly available databases, I searched for a Rose Aguilera Ramirez who may have lived in the Bay Area and/or Northern California. Public records revealed a Rose Aguilera Ramirez who resided in Fresno, California, as early as 1950. Fresno is approximately 160 miles from Sunnyvale.

Publicly available census data from 1950 indicated that her husband was Rudolph Ramirez, Sr. and they had three sons together as of the census date. Their sons were identified as Rudolph Ramirez, Jr., Gary Ramirez, and Ronald Ramirez. I later obtained certified copies of birth certificates for each of the three listed sons and confirmed their listed parents were Rose Ramirez and Rudolph Ramirez, Sr.

Using publicly available databases, I located the 2012 obituary for Rose Aguilera Ramirez which was been published in the Springfield News-Sun daily newspaper in Springfield, Ohio. The obituary confirmed she had the three previously known sons, as well as a fourth son, Russell Ramirez who was born after the 1950 Census. I obtained a certified copy of Russell's birth certificate and confirmed his parents were Rose Ramirez and Rudolph Ramirez, Sr. According to the birth certificates, all four sons were born in Fresno, CA. Publicly available databases revealed that the third son, Ronald Ramirez, changed his name to Merek Ramirez after the 1950 Census data was recorded.

Using publicly available databases, I located the 2019 obituary of Rudolph Ramirez, Sr., through the Jackson Lyte Lewis Funeral Home in Springfield, OH. His obituary confirmed he was the father of the same four sons listed above: Rudolph, Jr., Gary, Russell and Merek (previously Ronald). The obituaries of Rose Ramirez and Rudolph Ramirez, Sr., both listed two of their grandchildren.

In 2021, I utilized law enforcement databases to identify current addresses for each of the four sons. Law enforcement and publicly available databases confirmed all four male sons of Rose Ramirez and Rudolph Ramirez, Sr., were alive. None of the four sons had DNA profiles in CODIS.

### **Investigation of Rudolph Jr., Russell and Merek Ramirez as the Perpetrator**

From 2021 through 2022, my investigation conclusively determined that Rudolph, Jr., and Russell Ramirez could not have committed the Karen Stitt murder, leaving only two possibilities: Merek and Gary.

I was unable to conclusively eliminate Merek Ramirez. Based on the location of his residence, lack of publicly available information about his job and residence history at the time of the murder, and his current lifestyle, I could not do so without jeopardizing the integrity of the investigation. Consequently, I turned my focus to attempting to eliminate or identify Gary Ramirez as the unknown source of DNA.

### **Identification of Gary Ramirez as the Killer of Karen Stitt**

In March of 2022, I located a public profile on social media for a grandchild of Rose Ramirez and Rudolph Ramirez, Sr., who was named their obituaries. To protect the grandchild's privacy, I will refer to him/her as Grandchild.

I checked the publicly visible portion of the Facebook page belonging to Rudy Ramirez, Jr., and saw a post in which Grandchild made a comment, referring to him as "uncle Rudy." In addition, communications between Rudy and Grandchild refer to Merek by his first name as opposed to "dad," suggesting to me that Merek was Grandchild's uncle and not his/her father. I

then obtained a certified copy of Grandchild's birth certificate confirming the father was Gary Ramirez with a birth year of 1947, consistent with Gary Ramirez's birthdate of 6/4/1947.

On April 8, 2022, I obtained a sample of DNA from Grandchild. The Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory compared the DNA sample from Grandchild to the DNA from the unknown male blood collected from the Karen Stitt crime scene.

The lab concluded there is "very strong statistical support" that the source of unknown male DNA from the Karen Stitt crime scene is the biological father of Grandchild. The Crime Lab determined that "the likelihood of the DNA profiles being detected is at least 17.5 thousand times greater if there is a biological parent-child relationship between [Grandchild and the unknown crime scene DNA profile] than if there is no biological relationship between these two individuals." In comparison, the likelihood that the unknown male DNA was Grandchild's uncle Merek was significantly less. The Crime Lab reported that "the likelihood of the DNA profiles being detected is at least 545 times greater if there is a biological [uncle-niece/nephew] relationship between [Grandchild and the unknown crime scene DNA profile]."


**Conclusion:**

Since Gary Ramirez is the recorded biological father of Grandchild per official birth records, it is my opinion that there is probable cause to believe Gary Ramirez is guilty of the following:

1. A violation of Penal Code § 187(a) Murder [as Amended by Stats.1970, c. 1311, p. 2440, § 1]
2. The special circumstances of murder committed while the perpetrator was engaged in the commission of kidnapping and rape, in violation of Pen. Code §§ 190.2(a)(17)(ii) and (iii) [as Enacted by § 6 of Initiative Measure approved Nov. 7, 1978, eff. Nov. 8, 1978];
3. Being armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon in the commission of a felony, in violation of Pen. Code § 12022(a) [as Amended by Stats.1977, c. 165, p. 678, § 91, eff. June 29, 1977, operative July 1, 1977]

The code sections and definitions of the above-listed crimes and allegations have remained unchanged from 1982 with the exception of the special circumstances. The special circumstances above were renumbered in 1995 from (ii) and (iii) to (B) and (C), respectively, with no substantive changes.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the synopsis of the police reports, documents, and materials contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DocuSigned by:  
  
F4B22E6F8F4E4F9...  
Detective Matthew Hutchison #16662  
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety

7/29/2022  
Date