

Fresno career criminal who inspired Three Strikes law back in jail

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A Fresno man whose long rap sheet inspired California's Three Strikes law is back in the Fresno County Jail, charged with corporal injury to a spouse and violation of probation.

Douglas Walker, 49, is being held without bail. He has been in custody since Feb. 26, jail records show.

Walker was convicted of being an accessory to the robbery of 18-year-old Kimber Reynolds, who was slain outside a Tower District restaurant in June 1992. Her death came at the hands of Walker's friend, Joe Davis, who shot her as she fought for her purse. Davis was later killed by Fresno police.

His role in Reynolds' slaying inspired her father, Mike Reynolds, to campaign for the Three Strikes law, which mandates tougher sentences for repeat offenders in California.

Walker received a nine-year sentence for his role in Reynolds's slaying, but was paroled after serving 4 1/2 years in prison. Within a few weeks, he violated parole and was arrested and sent back to prison.

Since then he has been in and out of prison. He could have received his third strike after being convicted of stealing a tool chest in 2003. He avoided a third strike -- which would have netted him a 25-years-to-life sentence -- because a judge gave him the benefit of the doubt and a lesser punishment.

Under the prison realignment law that sends lower-level offenders to county jails instead of state prisons, he was placed on low-level supervision in Fresno last year because his last crime was considered nonviolent, authorities said.

Walker's criminal history and drug problems stretch back to his childhood. At age 13, he was arrested for inhaling fumes and selling heroin, court records show.

Before age 18, he had been arrested three times for being drunk in public. That was followed by arrests for petty thefts and drugs, the court documents show.

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