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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 2, 2009
Re: People v. Richard Michael CODDING
Battery and Drug Abuse Result in
9 years state prison

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Michael Coddling, age 35, of Modesto, was sentenced on July 2, 2009 9 years in state prison after pleading guilty on June 11, 2009 to one count of Battery with Serious Bodily Injury and one count of Possession of Rock Cocaine. Deputy District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 7, 2008 in the city of Modesto, Coddling assaulted a man during a verbal argument. The victim had allowed Coddling to stay at his apartment temporarily. The victim suffered serious injury to his face and one eye and had to receive emergency medical treatment.

On June 2, 2008 in the city of Modesto, Coddling was contacted at the Budget Motel on South 9th Street by Stanislaus County Sheriff's deputies. Coddling was found to be on active parole and had several outstanding arrest warrants. During the arrest and booking, Coddling was found to be in possession of a quantity of rock cocaine and a drug pipe.

In addition, Coddling admitted having been convicted of a serious felony that falls under California's "Three Strikes" law, as well as having served three prior prison terms. Coddling was ordered to appear for sentencing on both cases on June 16, 2009. Coddling failed to appear before the Court on June 16, 2009.

The Honorable Donald E. Shaver sentenced the defendant to 9 years in state prison for the battery with serious bodily injury and 2 years in state prison for the drug possession to be served concurrently.

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