



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 27, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Nicholas Steven Hays

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Auto Thief Sentenced to Two Years and
Eight Months in Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Nicholas Steven Hays, age 22, of Turlock, was convicted of auto theft and evading a peace officer. The defendant was already on probation for a November 2007 auto theft conviction and a June 2007 conviction for possession of methamphetamine. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on February 5, 2009 at around 1:30 p.m. in the area of California State University at Stanislaus (CSUS) in Turlock. Hays was observed driving a 1997 red Nissan pickup truck that was reported stolen the day before out of an apartment complex near CSUS. When Turlock police officers tried to perform a traffic stop, Hays accelerated away and disregarded several traffic lights and stop signs. After he lost control of the truck and crashed in an orchard in the area of North Gratton Road, Hays jumped out and ran through the orchard before being apprehended a short distance away. While in custody, Hays indicated he was upset after he argued with his girlfriend in her apartment near CSUS and decided to steal an unlocked truck to get away from her.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Donald Shaver sentenced Hays to two years and eight months in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office urges citizens to lock their parked vehicles.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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