



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 2, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Steven Anthony Moreland

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Auto Thief Sentenced to Four Years Prison

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven Anthony Moreland, age 29, of Stockton, was convicted of auto theft, evading a peace officer, and assault. The defendant is currently on probation for auto theft out of San Joaquin County from December 2007. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which initially occurred on Highway 99 north of the Pelandale Avenue exit on February 11, 2009 at around 9:00 a.m. Moreland was driving a 1995 green Saturn SL that had been reported stolen just hours before in Stockton. When a California Highway Patrol officer activated his siren and red lights to initiate a traffic stop, Moreland immediately accelerated to over 100+ MPH. Moreland then took the Standiford exit and drove onto the wrong side of the road. The pursuit then proceeded to Sisk Road, Dale Road, Veneman Avenue and Synder Avenue. Moreland ran every stop sign and traffic light he encountered and did not yield the right of way to any other traffic. Moreland then struck a curb and jumped out of the still moving car. He was apprehended a short distance away after a brief struggle. Moreland claimed he got the car from a friend but didn't have any contact information in order to return it.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Whiteside sentenced Moreland to four years in state prison.

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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