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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 27, 2008
Re: Tiffany Lofollette – under the influence
auto crash with school bus is given 240 days
in jail

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Tiffany Lafollette, age 36, of Turlock, was sentenced after her previously entered no-contest plea (and finding of guilt by the court) on September 29, 2008 to charges of driving under the influence of drugs causing injury and possession of cocaine. The case stemmed from a collision between the defendant's vehicle and a school bus on January 29, 2007.

Evidence presented at the preliminary hearing indicated that the defendant failed to yield to a large school bus that was proceeding through the intersection of Quincy and Castlevue Road in Turlock. Lafollette's Dodge Durango collided with the side of the bus. The bus jumped the curb and collided with a house. Several junior high school students on the bus were thrown from their seats and received minor bruising. Two children were treated at the hospital for neck and rib pain, but no serious injuries were suffered. No one in the house was injured. An investigation was conducted by the California Highway Patrol. Ms. Lafollette was determined to be driving under the influence of prescription medication, specifically Xanax, a central nervous system depressant, and citalopram which causes drowsiness.

Deputy District Attorney Nate Baker, who prosecuted the case for the People, noted that Ms. Lafollette has demonstrated remorse for her actions and she has come to grips with her addiction. However, taking responsibility for one's actions includes accepting the punishment for the crime.

The Honorable Judge Donald Shaver placed the defendant on three years of supervised probation, drug abuse counseling, ordered her to pay restitution for the damages caused by the collision and sentenced her to 240 days in the county jail. Before imposing sentence, Judge Shaver lectured the defendant on the hazards of addiction to prescription medication, noting that some pain medication is more addictive than heroin.

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