



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: September 2, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Thomas Frank Salas, Jr.

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 4 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Thomas Frank Salas, Jr, age 35, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of methamphetamine. The defendant also admitted a prior prison term for possession of stolen property from July 2007 for which he was on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on April 10, 2009 at around 9:30 p.m. in the area of Glenwood Drive and Sandalwood Drive in Modesto. A police officer observed Salas driving a 1998 green Buick LeSabre that had been reported stolen on February 7, 2009. Salas claimed that a friend recently loaned him the vehicle and that he did not know it was stolen, however, Salas had no contact information for this friend. A search of the front passenger seat incident to arrest revealed a .22 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver in Salas's backpack and methamphetamine inside Salas's wallet.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Salas 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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