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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 17, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Michael Aaron Stimpson

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Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Aaron Stimpson, age 19, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft and assault. Stimpson also admitted a prior auto theft from February 2008 for which he served a term in state prison and is still on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on August 1, 2009 at approximately 1 a.m. in the area of 3<sup>rd</sup> and "I" Street in Modesto. Stimpson was staying at a friend's house when he got into a verbal argument with another visitor in the house. Stimpson punched the visitor in the nose causing it to bleed. Stimpson then left in the visitor's 2001 green convertible Ford Mustang. The visitor reported his vehicle as stolen. A few hours later, Stimpson was stopped driving the stolen Mustang.

Upon entry of his guilty plea, Stimpson was sentenced by the Honorable John Whiteside to two 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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