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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: July 21, 2010

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Re: Daniel Allen Coats
Auto Thief Sentenced to
6 Years in Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Daniel Allen Coats, age 28, of Turlock, was convicted on July 21, 2010 of auto theft and residential burglary. Coats also admitted a prior conviction for auto theft from October 2004. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On May 8, 2009 at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the El Rosal restaurant in Turlock, Coats broke into a parked 2007 black Cadillac Escalade and stole a purse that was left inside. Coats retrieved the victim's house key and driver's license from inside the purse to discover the victim's address, drove to and broke into the victim's home in Denair while she was still eating inside the restaurant. After returning to her home, the victim discovered that she had been burglarized. While investigating the scene, a deputy located a fingerprint that was determined to match Coats. An arrest warrant was then issued for Coats.

On May 11, 2010, Coats stole a 1997 gold Infinity J30 car that was parked on Lander Avenue in Turlock. Coats was later arrested in Sparks, Nevada driving the stolen car.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Coats to six years in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office encourages citizens to not leave purses or other valuables inside unattended 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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