



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: November 30, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Joshua David Lankford
Auto Thief Gets
3 Years, 8 Months Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joshua David Lankford, age 24, of Keyes, was convicted on November 30, 2010 of auto theft and evading a peace officer. Lankford also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from May 2005. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 29, 2010 at about 1:00 p.m. in the area of 9th Street and Lucinda Avenue in Keyes, an officer observed Lankford driving a 1991 gray Chevy Silverado truck that was reported stolen on October 19, 2010 out of the victim's driveway in Turlock. When the officer activated his red lights and siren to initiate a traffic stop, Lankford accelerated away and ignored several stop signs and red traffic signals. Lankford then lost control of the truck and crashed into a chain link fence. The officer observed that the ignition column to the truck had been damaged. When the officer asked Lankford why he didn't stop, Lankford stated that he was "tweaked out on meth and I'm not thinking straight."

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Lankford to three years and eight months 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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