



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: June 28, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Richard Zarate
Auto Thief Sentenced to
3 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Zarate, age 30, of Red Bluff, was convicted on June 28, 2010 of auto theft and admitted having a prior auto theft conviction from January 2006 out of Kern County. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On June 11, 2010 at approximately 8:20 a.m. in the parking lot of a mobile home park on 9th Street in Modesto, an officer observed Zarate asleep inside a parked 1983 white Toyota Cressida. The car had been reported stolen on June 10, 2010 out of the victim's driveway in Modesto. The officer also observed that a Hyundai key had been jammed into the ignition to start the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Steffen Scott sentenced Zarate to three 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

###