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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 23, 2011
Re: Steven George Bronson #1425734

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Steven George Bronson, age 48, of Modesto, was convicted following a jury trial on August 12, 2011 of lewd act upon a child. On September 9, 2011, Bronson was sentenced to 2 years in state prison by the Honorable Ricardo Cordova. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

On November 4, 2010, the 15 year old female victim was shopping with her mother and teen sister at Wal-Mart in Modesto. Bronson approached the victim when she was in a separate aisle from her family and asked if she could try on a pair of shoes for him. The victim agreed and as she tried placing her foot in the shoe, Bronson grabbed it and starting rubbing his groin area with her foot. After several minutes, he then leaned forward and placed his open mouth on her bare thigh. At this moment, the victim's mother arrived in the aisle, confronted Bronson, and he left the area quickly. Bronson returned to the store the next day and Wal-Mart security notified the Modesto Police Department. Officer Mark Ulrich later found Bronson hiding in a closet at his mother's home.

At the sentencing hearing on September 9, 2011, Casillas informed the court that the young victim was so traumatized by the incident that she could not bring herself to attend another court event and be in the same room as Bronson. Upon arguing for a prison commitment, Casillas reminded the court that Bronson had been convicted in 2009 in Oregon in two misdemeanor cases involving facts similar to those in the current case. In the Oregon cases, Bronson approached two different young women on two different dates at a Target store and asked them to try on a pair of shoes. In one case, Bronson would re-adjust the woman's foot in his lap and he rubbed his lips and mouth on her bare inner thigh as she was wearing a short dress. In the other case, Bronson wrapped his arms around the young woman's ankle and kissed and licked her thigh. Casillas stated, "Obviously, all of these acts were not accidental or innocent. It is apparent the Defendant has some type of sexual obsession with young women, their feet and/or their footwear."

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