

## Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager District Attorney **Assistant District Attorney**Dave Harris

Chief Deputies
Doug Raynaud
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira

**Chief Investigator** Kevin Bertalotto

## PRESS RELEASE

## **For Immediate Release**

## **For More Information Contact:**

Date: December 8, 2016 Re: Richard Anthony Birts

Felony conviction & prison sentence

John Goold, Public Information Liaison

Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Anthony Birts, age 38, of Modesto, was convicted on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 of felony domestic violence and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Elaine G. Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 16, 2015, Birts became angry at the victim after she woke him up while getting ready to go to work. Birts physically assaulted her – hitting and pulling her hair until she called 911. Fearing being arrested by the police, he ran away.

Months later, on February 9, 2016, Birts contacted the victim, who was staying with family members. She agreed to meet Birts outside that residence. He immediately grabbed her by her hair, dragged her down the street and punched her in the mouth. When the victim called 911, Birts once again ran away. He was subsequently arrested and charged.

On December 1, 2016, Birts pleaded no contest to two counts of felony domestic violence before Judge Linda McFadden. McFadden then sentenced him to serve a total of 5 years in state prison.

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Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353 Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org