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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 4, 2003

Re: People v Bryant, jury verdict

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA – Stanislaus County District Attorney James Brazelton announced today that Charles Ernest Bryant, 43, was convicted by a jury on November 24, 2003 of possession of toluene with the intent to inhale to become intoxicated, trespassing, and resisting arrest, all misdemeanors. Deputy District Attorney Lara Clinton prosecuted the case for the People.

This case arose from events that occurred on October 27, 2003. On that day, the defendant was found on the property of Barton Ranch after having been repeatedly ordered by the court and advised by the Modesto Police Department to stay away from the property. Officer Paul Kirchoff saw Bryant inhale from a bottle containing toluene. He was singing in a nonsensical language and laughing to himself. When arrested for trespassing and toluene possession, Bryant resisted being handcuffed and challenged the officer to fight.

Trial on the charges was held before Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Jack Jacobson. After the jury returned a verdict convicting Bryant, Judge Jacobson ordered him to serve 365 days in jail, the maximum term, and placed him on three years probation. Bryant had been previously convicted 46 times for possession of toluene with the intent to inhale to become intoxicated.

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