



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: October 9, 2008

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Joseph Decoster

Phone: (209) 525-5550

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joseph Decoster, age 29, of Turlock, was sentenced by Judge Charles Stone to four years in the California Rehabilitation Center on October 9, 2008 after he pled guilty to auto theft. The defendant was in drug treatment and on probation for auto theft stemming from an October 29, 2007 conviction when he committed the current offense. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on September 24, 2008 when the defendant stole a 1993 Honda Accord from the driveway of the owner in Turlock just hours before being caught driving the car in Modesto.

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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