



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (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

Date: August 14, 2009
Re: James Leroy Graves, Jr.
Drunk Driver Convicted

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Leroy Graves, Jr., age 40, of Modesto, was convicted on August 13, 2009 after a four-day jury trial of Driving Under the Influence (DUI), having a blood alcohol concentration of .15 percent or more. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hault prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred on January 9, 2009. At approximately 2:15 p.m., a red pickup truck crashed into a sign located at the intersection of McHenry Avenue and Fairmont Avenue in Modesto. Witnesses saw Graves seated in the driver's seat of the truck. Graves reversed the pickup truck travelling about three feet and attempted to flee the scene. However, Graves was unable to leave due to the extensive damage to the truck. When a witness attempted to call 911 for assistance, Graves threatened the witness. Officers from the Modesto Police Department arrived and detained Graves. Graves had objective symptoms of intoxication and performed field sobriety tests consistent with a person who was under the influence of alcohol. A blood test later revealed that Graves's blood alcohol level was .18%.

The Honorable Donald Shaver then sentenced Graves to 30 days in jail, a \$1521 fine, alcohol treatment, enhanced DUI classes, and standard fines and fees.

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