



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact:

Carol Shipley

Date: February 11, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Michael Christopher Morrison
Auto Thief Sentenced to
Four Years

Phone:

(209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Christopher Morrison, age 24, a transient, was convicted on February 11, 2010 of auto theft. He also admitted a prior auto theft conviction from April 2004 which resulted in a prison term. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 1, 2009 at about 2:00 a.m., an officer, on routine patrol, observed Morrison wearing dark clothing standing next to a parked 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse in the back parking lot of a motel on Orangeburg Avenue in Modesto. As the officer pulled into the parking lot to investigate further, he saw that the front passenger window was broken out with glass lying on the ground. Morrison was now in the front passenger seat with the seat reclined and appeared to be trying to hide. Approximately two parking spaces away, the officer observed a 1993 blue Saturn wagon. This Saturn was running with all the doors locked but no one inside. The officer called the registered owner of the Saturn and learned that the owner did not know his car had been taken after he had parked it in his driveway at home approximately one hour earlier. Inside the Saturn, the officer located property that belonged to Morrison.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Morrison to four years in the California Rehabilitation Center and he was ordered to pay restitution for both vehicles.

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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