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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 14, 2016
Re: Rita Kathlene Dedios
Prison sentence

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rita Kathlene Dedios, age 48, of Modesto, was convicted and sentenced to state prison on December 13th, 2016 for felony auto theft and recklessly evading a peace officer. Deputy District Attorney Jared Jordan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On May 9, 2016, California Highway Patrol officers responded to a traffic accident at the intersection of Riverside Dr. and Yosemite Blvd. in Modesto. A Stanislaus County Sheriff's deputy responded to help block the intersection and protect CHP personnel while they investigated the crash.

While the deputy was directing traffic, Dedios got into his patrol car and drove it away with emergency lights still flashing. Members of the Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, and Ceres Police Department pursued Dedios down Mitchell Road. A "spike strip" was used and flattened one of the stolen patrol car's tires in an attempt to slow her down. Dedios ignored the flat tire as well as the lights and sirens of those pursuing her. Entering northbound Highway 99 she exceeded 100 mph before stopping and being taken into custody.

At the time of her arrest, Dedios had been on felony probation for less than one month after having been convicted in April 2016 of vandalizing a Modesto Police patrol car.

Based upon the facts of the offense, the danger posed to the community and her lengthy previous criminal record, Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Dedios to 2 years and 8 months in the California Department of Corrections.

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