



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: October 16, 2018  
Re: Joel James Cloud  
Felony conviction & prison sentence

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Joel James Cloud, age 38, of Patterson, was convicted of felony resisting an officer and possessing drugs in the jail and sentenced to state prison. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hogan prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On December 4, 2017, Cloud was being booked into the Stanislaus County Public Safety Center. While being searched by a custodial deputy, he tossed a small package of methamphetamine into the corner of the cell.

The deputy ordered Cloud to place his hands behind his back to be handcuffed. Instead of complying, Cloud grabbed the baggie of methamphetamine and tried to swallow it. In the ensuing struggle, both men fell to the floor where they wrestled for control of the drugs.

When the deputy stopped to call for backup, Cloud attempted to insert the package of methamphetamine into his own anal cavity. Once other deputies arrived, Cloud stopped resisting and the drugs were recovered.

On September 12, 2018, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Cloud of two separate felony crimes: resisting an executive officer and possessing a controlled substance in jail. The jury also found true that in 1998 Cloud had been convicted in San Benito county of the crime of carjacking, which is a serious and violent "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law.

Cloud has an extensive criminal history including multiple state prison sentences. His most recent trip to prison occurred in 2015 for a felony conviction out of Merced County. He is also known to have ties to criminal street gangs in Stanislaus County.

At the sentencing hearing on October 12, 2018, Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Cloud to serve six years in state prison. He is currently in custody awaiting delivery to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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