



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

**Birgit Fladager**  
District Attorney

**Assistant District Attorney**  
David P. Harris

**Chief Deputies**  
Annette Rees

Marlisa Ferreira  
Stephen R. Robinson  
Jeffrey M. Laugero

**Bureau of Investigation**  
Lt. David Hutchinson  
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

---

## PRESS RELEASE

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: April 15, 2019  
Re: Cornelius Peter De Jong  
Auto theft conviction

### **For More Information Contact:**

John Goold, Public Information Liaison  
Phone: (209) 525-6909

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Cornelius Peter De Jong, age 31, of Ripon, was convicted on March 21, 2019 of one count of felony vehicle theft and three counts of possession of a stolen vehicle. Deputy District Attorney Ahnna Reicks prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On December 19, 2017, De Jong took a 2006 white Dargo flatbed trailer, valued at \$3,800, from a home in Modesto. A short time later, a friend of the victim called 911 after he saw a stranger towing the victim's trailer. Investigators from the Modesto Area CHP/StanCATT Unit responded and arrested De Jong. Investigators located multiple California license plates inside De Jong's truck. Seven of those license plates belonged to trailers that had been previously reported stolen in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

One of the license plates in De Jong's possession belonged to a 2009 Iron Panther flatbed trailer, valued at \$1,200. It had been reported stolen on December 14, 2017, from a home located in Modesto. That same day, De Jong posted the stolen trailer for sale on the social media site "Offer Up." A local buyer from Stockton saw the advertisement and met with De Jong. De Jong represented that the stolen trailer belonged to him and sold it to him for \$200. That buyer positively identified De Jong from a photo lineup.

De Jong sold other stolen trailers through the website "Offer Up" including a 2011 Apache dump trailer, valued at \$10,000. In that sale, the buyer was unaware the trailer was reported stolen and only learned about it when he took it to a local CHP office for a VIN verification check. The buyer then asked CHP officers to check the status of second trailer that DeJong had sold him – a 2008 SPCNS flatbed trailer valued at \$1,800.00. CHP officers inspected the trailer and found the area where the VIN number was located had been concealed by spray paint. Despite the attempt to hide the trailer's identification number, officers confirmed it had been reported stolen on November 24, 2017 from an address in Modesto.

On March 21, 2019, De Jong pled no contest to one count of vehicle theft and three additional counts of possession of a stolen vehicle.

On April 4, 2019, Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced De Jong to felony probation with various terms and conditions, ordered him to pay restitution and serve 365 days in the county jail for each count to run concurrent to one another.

# # #