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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: 7/30/08  
Re: The People v. Kenneth Eurdean Hopper  
III, Cases Nos. 1244633 and 1246713

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Kenneth Eurdean Hopper III, age 40, of Modesto, pled no contest to a felony charge of Welfare Fraud, and a misdemeanor charge of being Under the Influence of Methamphetamine on July 29, 2008. The welfare fraud case was investigated by Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Special Investigative Unit Investigator Aaron Lundquist. The misdemeanor charge was investigated by the Modesto Police Department. The cases were prosecuted for the People by Deputy District Attorney Colleen Rhodes.

Mr. Hopper was charged with Welfare Fraud as a result of his failure to reveal on his application for Food Stamp benefits that he had previously been convicted of a drug felony. Mr. Hopper's prior conviction for a felony drug offense disqualified him from receiving Food Stamp benefits, but he hid this information from the Community Services Agency caseworkers when he applied for aid.

The Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Mr. Hopper to 365 days in the county jail and five years of felony probation in the Welfare Fraud case. Mr. Hopper will also be required to pay restitution, fines and fees. He also sentenced Mr. Hopper in the misdemeanor case to 120 days in the county jail to be served consecutively to the felony.