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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: 5-9-08

Re: John Matthew Ray

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Birgit Fladager announced today that John Mathew Ray, age 41, of Modesto, was convicted after a week-long jury trial that began on April 30, 2008. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case.

John Ray, aka ‘Shaggy,’ was already a convicted sex offender and registrant. He was convicted of 3 forcible sex crimes in 1993. His last violation of parole was 2005. That same year he befriended the current victim, who was then 14 years old, at the A&W in Modesto. After making friends with her and her brother, he befriended their mother and was eventually allowed to move into the home. He was kicked out in 2006, but moved back in January of 2007. The assaults began at that time. The 14-year-old victim is developmentally delayed and was particularly vulnerable to Ray’s manipulation of her trust. On several occasions when Ray was able to get the victim alone, he molested her and told her not to tell. Eventually, after almost being caught by another roommate, the victim finally disclosed what was happening to her.

The former victim from 1992 also testified at the trial. She was just 13 years old herself when assaulted. Even after the passage of 15 years, she told the jury she was still affected, “very much so.” The current victim was on the stand for almost a full day and ½ before cross examination was concluded. Ray was convicted of Digital Penetration, Oral Copulation, Unlawful Sexual Intercourse, Lewd and Lascivious Acts, and Failure to Register as a sex offender. Although Ray was current with his registration with the Modesto Police Department, he was registering as a ‘Transient’ and willfully failed to disclose the victim’s address where he was actually living. The victim and her family were unaware of Ray’s status as a sex offender. Since Ray has three prior strikes, he will be facing a minimum sentence of 25-years-to-life.

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