



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 9, 2008

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Duane Runolfson

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Auto Thief Sentenced to Two Years and
Eight Months in Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Duane Runolfson, age 45, of Modesto, was sentenced by Judge Ricardo Cordova to two years and eight months in state prison after he was convicted of auto theft and driving under the influence. The defendant also admitted a “strike” prior for residential burglary from Los Angeles County in September 1986. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on October 22, 2008 when Runolfson stole a 1984 tan Chevrolet Caprice from Ceres outside the victim’s place of business. The next day, Runolfson was involved in a non-injury traffic collision with another vehicle. When officers were dispatched to the scene, they observed that Runolfson displayed signs of being under the influence of alcohol. A breath test revealed that Runolfson had a .25/.27 blood alcohol level.

Stanislaus County residents can report suspected vehicle theft activity to their local law enforcement agency or contact the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) at: (209) 545-7316.

IF YOU OBSERVE A THEFT IN PROGRESS, DIAL 911

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