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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: December 8, 2008  
Re: Gary Joseph Valverde-7 years  
Prison for Petty Thief with prior theft  
convictions

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Gary Joseph Valverde, age 45, of Modesto was sentenced today to seven years in state prison by the Honorable Marie Silveira after a jury trial conviction on July 29, 2008 in which Valverde was found guilty of petty theft with prior theft convictions. A court trial on the defendant's prior prison commitments for three residential burglaries, an assault likely to produce great bodily injury, petty theft with a prior theft conviction, and receiving stolen property, found them to be true. Deputy District Attorney Abel C.K. Hung prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on December 19, 2007, in the city of Modesto. Defendant stole personal property belonging to a family from the front of the victim family's home. When he was confronted by family members, defendant stated that he needed the property and continued to drive away with the property.

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