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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 23, 2009
Re: Lisa Diana Chavez- Auto Thief
Sentenced to 3 years in State Prison

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Lisa Diana Chavez, age 29, of Modesto, was convicted of possession of methamphetamine in the county jail and possession of a stolen vehicle. The defendant also admitted a prior auto theft conviction for which she served a term of imprisonment and for which she is currently on parole. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events which occurred on December 27, 2007 when the defendant was a passenger in a grey 1995 Nissan Sentra which had been reported stolen earlier that day. Chavez initially claimed she didn't know the car was stolen when her male friend picked her up. The defendant's friend stated that he was driving the car after Chavez recently traded drugs for it, but didn't know the car was stolen. The driver also pled guilty to possession of the stolen car on January 9, 2008.

On January 7, 2008, while in custody for the auto theft case, Chavez was caught trying to pass .06 grams of methamphetamine wrapped in a plastic bindle to another inmate at the county jail.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Chavez to three years in state prison.

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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