



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 30, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Chantell Marie Dobias AKA Kelly

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto Thief Sentenced to 2 Years in State Prison

**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Chantell Marie Kelly, aka Dobias, age 40, of Galt, was convicted of auto theft, possession of methamphetamine, and giving false identification to a police officer. Dobias was on felony probation out of Sacramento County for a 2007 conviction for possession of stolen property. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The cases arose out of two events that occurred on August 24, 2008 and October 6, 2008.

On Sunday, August 24, 2008 at around 6:00 p.m. in the area of Tuolumne Boulevard in Modesto, Dobias was observed riding as a passenger in a vehicle without a seatbelt. During a routine traffic stop, officers discovered that Dobias was on probation. Inside Dobias's right front pocket, officers found .04 grams of methamphetamine.

On Monday, October 6, 2008 at around 6:30 p.m. in the area of Wayside Drive in Turlock, Dobias was observed driving a 1986 brown Toyota pick-up truck that had been reported stolen out of the CostCo parking lot in Modesto on September 13, 2008 when the owner left it unlocked while shopping. Dobias claimed a friend gave her the vehicle but she had no contact information for the friend.

Upon entry of her guilty pleas, Dobias was sentenced to two years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by the Honorable Scott Steffen.

The District Attorney's Office urges drivers to always lock their cars.

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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