



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County

832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353  
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

**Birgit Fladager**  
**District Attorney**

Carol Shipley  
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen

Alan Cassidy

Dave Harris

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: August 17, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Bill Don Etheridge

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Felon Possessing Firearm Sentenced to

2 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Bill Don Etheridge, age 21, of Modesto, was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Etheridge also admitted a violation of probation on his two prior felony convictions: possession of both methamphetamine and a firearm from April 2007 and possession of marijuana while in jail from November 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred at approximately 2 a.m. on July 24, 2009 in the area of E. Orangeburg Avenue and McHenry Avenue in Modesto. Police contacted Etheridge who was sitting in the driver's seat of a 1999 white Cadillac Escalade that had been reported stolen. A search incident to arrest revealed a loaded Lorcin .38 caliber handgun underneath Etheridge's seat. Convicted felons may not possess firearms.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Whiteside sentenced Etheridge to two years in prison. This is Etheridge's first commitment to state prison.