



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: November 30, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Rodney Lee Gratton

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Auto Thief Sentenced to
4 Years Prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rodney Lee Gratton, age 41, of Modesto, was convicted of auto theft and admitted having a prior auto theft conviction from September 2000. Gratton is currently on parole stemming from an August 2007 conviction for forgery. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On September 19, 2009 at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Hammond Street in Modesto, a Modesto Police Officer observed Gratton driving a 2005 black Ford Mustang that had been reported stolen about one hour prior from South 7th Street in Modesto. Gratton stated that the victim had loaned him the vehicle but did not tell Gratton a time or date to return it. Although Gratton had the keys to the vehicle, the victim denied ever given Gratton permission to take his vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Marie Silveira sentenced Gratton to four 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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