



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th 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

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: May 4, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: James Dale Roberts

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Auto thief sentenced to 6 years prison

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that James Dale Roberts, age 36, of Modesto, was convicted of residential burglary, auto theft and commercial burglary. Roberts had been on parole following his release from prison as a result of a December 2006 conviction for possession of stolen property, a May 2005 conviction for auto theft, and a November 2004 conviction for possession of methamphetamine. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

The case arose out of events that occurred over three days. During the early morning hours of November 30, 2008, Roberts entered a residence located on Northgate Drive in Modesto when the home owner inadvertently left her garage door open. Roberts entered the home and took the victim's purse which contained a set of car keys to a 2006 white Honda Accord that was parked in the garage; he then drove off in the car. A few days later on December 3, 2008, Roberts entered the Walmart located on McHenry Avenue in Modesto and used the victim's credit card to make a purchase. On December 6, 2008, Roberts then went into Sears located at the Vintage Faire Mall in Modesto to purchase two televisions—again using the stolen credit card. An alert Loss Prevention Officer observed that Roberts had suspicious identification and called the actual victim to confirm the purchases and discovered that the transactions were fraudulent.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Roberts to six years in the California Rehabilitation Center.

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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