PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: October 27, 2009

Re: Andrew Lee Suarez
        Auto Thief Sentenced to
        2 Years, 8 Months Prison

Contact: Carol Shipley

Assistant District Attorney

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Andrew Lee Suarez, age 20, of Oakdale, was convicted on October 27, 2009 of auto theft. Suarez also admitted a prior conviction for residential burglary, a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law, from January 2008 for which Suarez is currently on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 15, 2009 at around 10:00 a.m. in the area of Eleanor Avenue in Oakdale, Suarez stole his foster mother's 2006 blue Kia Sorrento which contained a laptop, cell phone, and approximately 100 CDs. Suarez does not possess a driver's license and had not been getting along with his foster mother. The next day, Suarez was located with the vehicle in Modesto by members of the Stanislaus County Auto-Theft Task Force (STANCATT) and was arrested without incident. There was damage to the outside of the vehicle as well as extensive graffiti drawn inside of the vehicle. Suarez admitted to taking the vehicle. None of the items that had been left in the vehicle were found.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Ricardo Cordova sentenced Suarez to thirty-two months 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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