



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: October 21, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Jason Brandon Benson
Auto Thief Gets
Five Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jason Brandon Benson, age 35, of Modesto, was convicted on October 21, 2010 of auto theft. Benson also admitted one prior theft conviction from February 2000 and another from November 2007 both of which resulted in prison sentences. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 13, 2010 at around 7:30 p.m., Benson got a ride from an ex-girlfriend to attend a pleasure party at the Tiki Lounge on McHenry Avenue in Modesto. While at the bar, Benson got bored and told his ex-girlfriend that he was going to smoke outside. About thirty minutes later, she noticed that her car keys, her 2001 blue Honda Accord, and Benson were missing. Benson was located later that night driving the Honda Accord in the area of Wylie Avenue in Modesto. After the officer performed a traffic stop, Benson claimed that his ex-girlfriend loaned him the vehicle but could not explain how she was to get back home from the bar or retrieve her vehicle.

The Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Benson to five 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

###