



OFFICE OF THE
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Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: May 21, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Benjamin Bucur
Auto Thief Sentenced to
2 Years

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Benjamin Bucur, age 25, of Patterson, was convicted on May 21, 2010 of residential burglary and auto theft. Bucur is currently on probation stemming from convictions for possession of methamphetamine and auto theft from August 2008. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 15, 2010 at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the area of Hackett Road in Ceres, an officer observed Bucur driving a 2007 silver Ford Mustang that had been reported stolen out of San Jose on April 10, 2010. After performing a traffic stop, the officer observed that there were laptops, computer monitors, a Sony Playstation, jewelry, and a driver's license with another person's name on it in the vehicle. The officer then discovered that the person on the driver's license had been the victim of a residential burglary in Modesto earlier that morning. Bucur then admitted that he stole his friend's car out of San Jose on April 10th because he needed to drive to Los Angeles to meet a friend. Bucur also stated that he burglarized the home in Modesto that morning so that he could sell the stolen property to pay for his trip to Los Angeles.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Bucur to two years in 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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