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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: February 26, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Richard Joseph Fox
Auto Thief Sentenced
to 2 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Joseph Fox, age 43, of Ceres, was convicted of auto theft and possession of methamphetamine for sale. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On March 16, 2009 at approximately 5:00 p.m. at an apartment complex at 10th Street and Stanford Avenue in Ceres, the owner of a recently stolen 1968 black Chevy pick-up truck observed Fox parking the vehicle on the street. When an officer arrived at the scene, he observed that the license plate and vehicle identification number had been switched. Fox claimed that he purchased the vehicle at a tow yard but had no bill of sale. After Fox was arrested, he posted bail and was released from custody.

On September 4, 2009, Fox borrowed a 2004 white Chevy pick-up truck from a friend in Livermore. When Fox failed to return it, his friend reported it as stolen. On September 19, 2009 at approximately 9:20 a.m. in the area of Claremont Avenue and Rumble Road in Modesto, an officer stopped Fox while he was driving the truck. After Fox was arrested, he again posted bail for his release from custody.

On October 3, 2009 at around 6 p.m., officers executed a search warrant at Fox's residence on 6th Street in Ceres. Officers found over fifty one inch-by-one inch baggies, three digital scales, \$374 in Fox's pocket, a cell phone, 1.64 grams of methamphetamine in three separate baggies as well as a syringe with .2 ml of methamphetamine.

The Honorable Nancy Ashley sentenced Fox 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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