



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: September 10, 2010

Assistant District Attorney

Re: Ricardo Israel Garcia
Auto Thief Sentenced to
2 Years Prison

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ricardo Israel Garcia, age 22, of Pixley, CA was convicted on September 10, 2010 of auto theft and admitted a prior auto theft conviction from May 2010 for which he was still on probation. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On September 1, 2010 at approximately 1:40 p.m., in the parking lot of an apartment complex on Eucalyptus Avenue in Newman, an officer observed Garcia sitting in the driver's seat of a parked 1995 green Ford Mustang, which had been reported stolen on August 27, 2010. The registered owner had briefly left her vehicle running in her driveway so that she could quickly grab her bagged lunch that was on her kitchen counter. When the owner came back outside, she observed someone driving away in her car. Garcia's friend told the officer that Garcia had picked him up in the vehicle.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable John Freeland sentenced Garcia to two years in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office urges residents not to leave their unattended vehicles running no matter how brief.

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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