



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: March 26, 2010

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Re: Kenneth Ray Wagner
Auto Thief Sentenced to
4 Years, 8 Months

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Kenneth Ray Wagner, age 54, of Empire, was convicted on March 16, 2010 of two counts of auto theft. Wagner also admitted having served a prior prison term from September 2003. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey W. Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On January 4, 2010 at approximately 12:45 a.m. in the area of Crows Landing Road and South 7th Street in Ceres, Wagner was driving a 2000 black Dodge Intrepid that had been reported stolen on January 2, 2010 out of an apartment complex on Scenic Drive in Modesto. After performing a traffic stop, the officer observed damage to the steering column. Wagner claimed he borrowed the car from a friend named “Tommy” but had no other contact information for him. After being arrested, Wagner was able to post bail and was released from custody.

On February 27, 2010 at approximately 8:05 a.m. in the area of South 9th Street in Modesto, Wagner was driving a 2001 black Chevy Camaro that had been reported stolen on February 25, 2010 out of a driveway on Montague Court in Modesto. The victim had left the keys inside his unlocked car while he retrieved an item from his house. After Wagner was pulled over, Wagner claimed that he bought the car for only \$100 since the seller told Wagner the car was “hot” and the seller needed to get rid of the stolen car.

Upon entry of the plea, the Honorable Scott Steffen sentenced Wagner to four years and eight months in prison.

The District Attorney’s Office urges citizens not to leave their keys in unattended vehicles even for a few minutes.

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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