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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 13, 2011
Re: Michael Romon Johnson

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Johnson, age 42, of Modesto was sentenced on April 13, 2011 by the Honorable John Freeland to 13 years in state prison for Dependent Adult Embezzlement, Rape, and Forced Oral Copulation following a conviction at jury trial in February of this year. Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees prosecuted the case for the People.

In 2002, Victim 1 inherited a large sum of money from an aunt she barely knew. Johnson set up several bank accounts, two with Victim 1 and Victim 2, and others that he held under his business name and personal account. Both victims are dependent adults who have resided in Board and Care facilities all of their adult lives. Johnson was responsible for their room and board, care and finances. One victim suffers cognitive impairment and psychotic disorders, while the other suffers from cerebral palsy. Johnson deposited Victim 1's inheritance and then took several loans against the account, each time paying a portion of the proceeds into his personal account which neither victim could access. Johnson also used \$10,000.00 to make a loan to a friend of his who operated a gaming store in Modesto at the time.

"The defendant is manipulative, he is manipulative and mean. He is a sexual predator and should spend a very long time in prison," Rees told the Honorable Judge John Freeland at Johnson's sentencing hearing. Judge Freeland recited several aggravating factors regarding Johnson's crimes including the vulnerability of the victims, the violation of trust and, as to the embezzlement, the sophistication and planning involved.

Both victims were present in court to finally witness justice being served.

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