



OFFICE OF THE
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: April 12, 2011

Re: Richard Eugene Lewis

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**Auto Thief Gets
3 Years Prison**

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Eugene Lewis, age 54, of Modesto, was convicted on April 12, 2011 of possession of a stolen vehicle. Lewis had previously been convicted of possession of methamphetamine in 1997 and illegal possession of a firearm in 1998 for which he served a term of imprisonment. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On April 4, 2011 at approximately noon, an officer received a tip that four people were taking parts off and stripping a 1999 black Honda Civic that had no license plates and was raised up on jacks. This vehicle was located on an open lot. When the officer arrived, he observed the Civic and only Lewis next to the vehicle. Lewis stated that he saw the Civic and felt it was abandoned so he removed the license plates and wheels from the car. Both license plates and all four wheels were located in Lewis's apartment.

The Honorable Thomas Zeff sentenced Lewis to three years in state 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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