



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing address: PO BOX 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney
Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 9, 2012
Re: Ricardo Castillo

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Ricardo Castillo, age 20, of Modesto, was convicted on September 14, 2012 of carjacking with use of a firearm and evading a peace officer. Carjacking is considered a strike under California's "Three Strikes" law. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar prosecuted the case for the People.

On February 27, 2012 at approximately 10:30 p.m., Castillo walked up to the victim who was pumping gas at an AM/PM in downtown Modesto and asked to borrow a lighter for his cigarette. The victim did not smoke and had no lighter. A few seconds later, Castillo returned and pointed an unloaded 9 mm silver Browning pistol at the victim and demanded the victim's 2003 black Ford Explorer. As Castillo was driving away, the victim ran into the AM/PM and called 911 to report the theft. Within minutes, police located the vehicle which was traveling at speeds over 100 mph as Castillo was heading northbound on Highway 99. When Castillo made an abrupt turn to exit at the Tuolumne off-ramp, he lost control and crashed into oleander bushes next to the embankment on the highway. Castillo was transported by ambulance to Memorial Medical Center where he was eventually released by the hospital and taken into custody.

Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Castillo to fifteen years and eight months in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office urges residents to always be aware of their surroundings, even at public locations such as gas stations. 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

###