



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Stanislaus County  
832 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Modesto, CA 95354  
Mailing address: POB 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

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: August 1, 2012  
Re: People v. Marco Villa

**For More Information Contact:**

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

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that on June 22, 2012, Marco Villa, age 32, of Ceres, was convicted of two counts of burglary, forgery of a receipt for money, possession of methamphetamine, and two counts of auto theft. In addition, Villa admitted to committing a crime while out on bail and two violations of probation from two other cases.

Between January 2, 2012 to January 27, 2012, Villa entered a vacant house the owner was attempting to rehabilitate after thieves vandalized the house. Villa changed the locks, moved in with his girlfriend, and forged a lease and rent receipts falsely claiming that the victim had leased the premises to him. The crimes were discovered when the owner's realty agent came to the front door to check on the property and found the locks changed and Villa living at the house.

On March 2, 2012, Villa was caught on video burglarizing storage units. The stolen property was located at his own unit at that business and in his apartment.

On September 30, 2011, Villa was found in a motel room during a probation search with methamphetamine in his wallet.

On September 27, 2011, Villa was driving a car that belonged to another person and had written his name on top of the owner's on the pink slip claiming to be the owner. On December 2, 2011, Villa borrowed a truck from a very reluctant victim for use overnight, and then refused to return the truck, despite multiple texts from the victim and a week of calls by a CHP officer requesting him to return the vehicle. The truck was ultimately recovered from yet another person who was also prosecuted for auto theft.

Judge Nancy Ashley sentenced Villa to nine years and eight months incarceration. Six years and four months of this time will be served in local prison and three years and four months to be served under mandatory supervision by the Probation Department under the new California realignment laws.