



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 8, 2020
Re: Looting, PC 463

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that anyone who commits a crime of Burglary in the Second Degree, Grand Theft or Petty Theft, in our county, during the State of Emergency could be charged with Looting in violation of Penal Code §463.

The District Attorney's Office has been working closely with our local law enforcement agencies to address these types of crimes that have continued during this pandemic. Our office has filed fifteen separate counts of looting thus far. Twelve of these counts are felonies against seven defendants in six separate cases. The remaining three counts are misdemeanor looting charges against three defendants in two separate cases. These cases were generated from arrests made by Modesto, Turlock and the Waterford Police Departments. These are the numbers to date and we continue to receive additional cases referred by law enforcement.

A statewide emergency bail order was implemented by the California Judicial Council on April 6, 2020, which required bail to be set at zero dollars for a multitude of offenses, except for specified crimes. Looting is among those specified crimes. Therefore, if a defendant is charged with looting he or she will have to go before the court to address his or her custody status and will not be automatically released on zero amount bail.

A person convicted of looting must serve a mandatory minimum sentence of three to six months in jail and the court could impose an additional 80 to 240 hours of community service.

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