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## TRANSIENT SEX OFFENDER CONVICTED

A 7 man, 5 woman Merced County jury convicted 52 year old Clifton Robinson of three counts of failing to register as a sex offender, according to Deputy District Attorney Mathew Martinez, who prosecuted the case. Friday's verdict capped a three day jury trial, presided over by Superior Court Judge Ronald W. Hansen.

Robinson, a transient whose last known address is in Sacramento, is required to register as a sex offender due to his 1985 convictions for child molestation, said Martinez. Merced Police Department Thomas Martinez arrested Robinson on November 3, 2007 following a traffic stop in the City of Merced. Officer Martinez learned that Robinson had not registered as a sex offender in California since 1990. Sex offenders are required to register annually, said Martinez, who is the Deputy District attorney assigned to prosecute failure to register cases for the District Attorney's office.

"This defendant demonstrates a total lack of responsibility to the community. The People of this State have determined that the public has a right to know the whereabouts of dangerous, predatory felons", said Martinez. "I appreciate the jury understanding the gravity of these offenses and coming to a fair and just verdict. Hopefully the verdict will demonstrate to other sex offenders that Merced County will enforce the mandated registration requirement", added Martinez.

Judge Hansen set sentencing in the matter for March 21, 2008. Because Robinson has a prior violent felony, he faces up to seven years, four months in prison. Additionally, Robinson will not be eligible for release until he has served at least 80 percent of his sentence.