



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

**Gerald C. Benito**  
*District Attorney*

Daniel E. Flynn  
*Assistant District Attorney*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SHASTA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
MISDEMEANOR METHAMPHETAMINE PROBATION COMPLIANCE PROGRAM**

As part of a federal grant to combat the local methamphetamine problem, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office with the cooperation of the Redding Police Department, the Shasta County Sheriff's Department and Shasta County Probation Department began the Misdemeanor Methamphetamine Probation Compliance Program beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. The bulk of the federal methamphetamine grant, called the Methamphetamine Initiative, already addresses the issues of legal compliance regarding felony offenders, however little to no compliance efforts were undertaken to ensure that misdemeanor probationers complied with the terms and conditions imposed upon them by a judge upon their conviction for misdemeanor methamphetamine offenses. In addition, many of those on misdemeanor probation were offered, but rejected, statutory drug treatment programs. Although typically misdemeanor offenders are placed on probation, they are generally not supervised or monitored because of a lack of resources in the criminal justice system.

On July 17, 2008 investigators of the Shasta County District Attorney's Office conducted an introductory sweep and search of 4 misdemeanor methamphetamine probationers. The sweep consisted of making contact with the probationer and other occupants of the residence at their home, searching the probationer's portion of the residence and insuring that all aspects of their probation conditions are being met. Aspects of the probation included adherence to attending drug counseling, drug testing, abstaining from drugs and alcohol and payment of their fines.

The Misdemeanor Methamphetamine Probation Compliance Team was met with surprise by each of the probationers, who were unaccustomed to a compliance check. In fact, at least one person did not realize that she was even on probation. However, the team was happy to report that they found no probation violations during these checks. The team will continue their sweeps on probationers not contacted as well as sporadic checks on all misdemeanor methamphetamine probationers.

For additional information regarding this program please contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 530.245.6310 or Chief Investigator Dan Kartchner at 530.245.6343.