



OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**THREE STRIKER SENTENCED TO  
LIFE IN PRISON**

**August 12, 2008**

Yesterday, the Honorable Judge Baker sentenced Arthur Milton Colson to 75 years to life in state prison. On June 4, 2008, a jury convicted Colson of Receiving Stolen Property, and two counts of Unlawful Taking and Driving a Stolen Vehicle. The next day, the Honorable Judge Baker found Colson's two prior "strike" convictions to be true.

Colson was convicted of the August 15, 2006 theft of a Chevrolet Pick-up from the storage yard of River City Pools. Colson was also convicted of the March 23, 2006 theft of a Ford F150 Truck from River City Pools after leaving another stolen vehicle, a Toyota Celica, around the corner from the storage yard of River City Pools. Colson was caught on surveillance tape at the storage yard and footprints near the Chevrolet Pick-up were later found to match Colson's shoes.

Colson's prior strikes were for Residential Burglary committed in 1984 and Corporal Injury to Spouse with Personal Infliction of Great Bodily Injury in 1990. Colson also has misdemeanor convictions for theft and domestic violence. He has two additional felony convictions - Corporal Injury to Spouse in 1994 and Possession of a Controlled Substance in 2006 - neither of which are "strikes" under the 3 strikes law. Colson also has numerous probation and parole violations. Under the 3 strikes law, the 1994 and 2006 felony convictions could have led to a life sentence for Colson. However, Colson had the benefit of having "strikes" stricken (dismissed) in Sacramento County and Lassen County where those convictions occurred.

This case was investigated by Detectives Chris Rathbun and Rob Peterson of the Redding Police Department and was prosecuted by Shasta County Deputy District Attorney Emily Mees.