



PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Law
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JASON HEMINGWAY GUILTY IN “SWITCH AND BAIT” CAR THEFT SCHEME

DENVER — [Colorado Attorney General John Suthers](#) announced today that, Jason Hemingway (37 years) was found guilty of running an elaborate auto-theft ring, stealing money and deceiving Colorado Department of Revenue personnel. He was convicted in Arapahoe District Court of ten felony counts involving theft, aggravated motor vehicle theft, ID theft and attempting to influence a public servant.

“Taking a repeat offender off the streets for his elaborate car-theft scheme represents another victory for law enforcement,” Suthers said. “Thanks to the cooperation of our partner organizations and professionals, we brought this case and put the brakes on this criminal activity.”

In February 2004, Hemingway began what would become a pattern of auto theft mostly targeting ‘90s-era Hondas. Hemingway fraudulently obtained vehicle titles from the Colorado Department of Revenue. He then attached those titles to stolen cars by swapping the vehicle identification number (VIN). He then sold the stolen cars to unsuspecting buyers in a “switch and bait” scheme. Hemingway stole cars and money amounting to approximately \$50,000 before his actions were discovered in 2010 by an Aurora Police detective assigned to the Eastern Metro Auto Theft Team (EMATT).

Sentencing is open to the discretion of the Court and could range from two to six years in prison or a \$500,000 fine for each felony count in which Hemingway was convicted.

The Attorney General’s Auto Theft Unit worked in conjunction with the Aurora Police Department, the Eastern Metro Auto Theft Team and the Colorado Department of Revenue to investigate the case and secure the convictions. Both the Attorney General’s Auto Theft Unit and EMATT are funded through the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

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