



FEBRUARY

COUNTY OF FRESNO

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

**Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Judgment Secured Against Leading Online Auto Auctioneer in Hazardous Waste Enforcement Action

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office announced today that they, along with 16 other California District Attorneys and City Attorneys, have reached a settlement with Copart for injunctive relief, civil penalties, and enforcement costs totaling \$800,000. Copart is a major online auto auctioneer, specializing in the resale and remarketing of used vehicles.

After an investigation into the waste management practices of Copart, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office joined with 16 other District Attorney and City Attorney offices in a civil suit alleging that Copart improperly disposed of hazardous waste items. The waste consisted of used office supplies, items removed from vehicles being prepared for sale such as personal items, small electronics, personal care, automotive, and other consumer products. Copart's practices ultimately led to hazardous waste being improperly transported to and disposed of in municipal landfills instead of authorized hazardous waste disposal facilities.

In response to the settlement, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp stated, "In order to protect the health and well-being of our citizens, those that cause harm to the environment must be held accountable. Environmental harm at the corporate level can have a significant impact. We're encouraged with this outcome and the fact that Copart agreed to enhance their existing disposal training programs as part of the overall settlement."

The judgment agreed to by the parties provides for \$650,000 in civil penalties and another \$150,000 in costs for enforcement. Additionally, Copart is subjected to a permanent injunction prohibiting them from violating hazardous waste laws and requiring implementation of compliance assurance measures.

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