



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWO MIDLAND WOMEN FACE FEDERAL NARCOTICS CHARGES
IN CONNECTION WITH OVERDOSE DEATH**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that federal and local authorities arrested two Midland women in connection with the overdose death of a 21-year-old man in April of 2008.

Tiofila Santillana, 46, and Emily Micah Suckarieh, 22, are charged by federal grand jury indictment with distribution of controlled substances. According to the sealed indictment returned on July 23, 2008, and unsealed today, 21-year-old Brandon Moore was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital on April 10, 2008, after friends could not rouse him from sleep despite several hours of effort. Moore was placed on a ventilator and admitted to intensive care, where he never regained consciousness. He died on April 23, 2008, of acute mixed drug intoxication. Santillana is charged with distributing the methadone, and Suckarieh the benzodiazepine, or "Xanax", that were consumed by Moore before he lost consciousness.

Because methadone is a tightly controlled Schedule II narcotic, Santillana faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years of incarceration, up to a maximum of life, if she is found guilty of distributing drugs that resulted in Moore's death. Suckarieh, who distributed a Schedule III controlled substance, faces a maximum of four years of incarceration.

The Midland Police Department and the Midland County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration to conduct this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen is prosecuting the case for the Government.

It is important to note that an indictment is merely an accusation and not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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