



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 11, 2012**

**ACOMA PUEBLO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY A  
HABITUAL OFFENDER**

ALBUQUERQUE – **Kirby Dana Sanchez**, 37, a member and resident of Acoma Pueblo, entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with domestic assault by a habitual offender today in Albuquerque federal court. Sanchez faces up to five years of imprisonment at his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Sanchez was arrested on tribal charges on September 21, 2011 by officers of the Acoma Pueblo Police Department, and detained on tribal charges until October 5, 2011, when he was arrested on federal charges by special agents of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Sanchez has been in federal custody since that time.

According to court filings, on September 21, 2011, Sanchez assaulted his wife who is also a member and resident of Acoma Pueblo. Sanchez's victim suffered numerous injuries that required medical attention as a result of the assault, including a laceration to the forehead which required staples to close and other bruises, bumps and cuts to her extremities and head.

Sanchez was prosecuted federally for the September 21, 2011 assault because he had two prior domestic violence convictions in tribal court. Records reflect that Sanchez was convicted of aggravated battery against a household member on July 5, 2007 in Acoma Tribal Court. Sanchez was convicted of aggravated battery against a household member and kidnapping on February 8, 2010 also in Acoma Tribal Court.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Laguna/Acoma Agency, and the Acoma Pueblo Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Presliano A. Torrez.

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