



PRESS RELEASE

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DULCE, N.M., MAN SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE -- This afternoon, a federal judge in Albuquerque, N.M., sentenced **Stanford Chavez**, 50, a member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation who resides in Dulce, N.M., to a 37-month term of imprisonment for his abusive sexual contact conviction. Chavez will be on supervised release for five years after completing his prison sentence and also will be required to register as a sex offender.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Chavez was indicted on September 27, 2011, and charged with having sexual contact with a child under 12 years of age. According to the indictment, the crime occurred between November 1, 2010 and February 13, 2011, in Indian Country in Rio Arriba County, N.M. Chavez was arrested on October 5, 2011, and thereafter was released to a half-way house under conditions of release.

On December 30, 2011, Chavez entered a guilty plea to the indictment. In his plea agreement, Chavez admitted forcing an eight-year-old child to touch his unclothed genitals with her hand. Chavez also admitted that he committed this crime between the dates alleged in the indictment and that the crime occurred within the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. He further admitted that both he and the child victim are members of the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Chavez was remanded into federal custody after entering his guilty plea.

The case was investigated by the FBI and the Jicarilla Apache Tribal Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Niki Tapia-Brito.

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