



PRESS RELEASE

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MESCALERO MAN TO SERVE FOURTEEN YEARS IN PRISON
FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE -- Earlier today in Las Cruces federal court, Wyatt Michael Lee Pebeashy, 25, was sentenced to a 168-month term of imprisonment for his conviction for aggravated sexual abuse of a minor. Pebeashy, a member and resident of the Mescalero Apache Nation, will serve a ten-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence. He also will be required to register as a sex offender.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Pebeashy was sentenced for sexually abusing a child on Oct. 3, 2008, at a residence located within the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

According to court filings, the victim's mother contacted law enforcement authorities on Oct. 3, 2008, and reported her belief that Pebeashy had sexually assaulting her child. Investigation of the report was impeded because the victim was not able to have any meaningful communication with investigators due to her young age. Although Pebeashy denied assaulting the victim during interviews with authorities, in July 2009, he agreed to provide a DNA sample to authorities. In Nov. 2010, the results of DNA analysis revealed that a blood stain found on the victim's shirt was Pebeashy's blood. In June 2011, after being confronted with the DNA evidence, Pebeashy admitted sexually assaulting the victim.

Pebeashy was charged by criminal complaint in July 2011, and was arrested on Aug. 2, 2011. He has been in federal custody since that time. Pebeashy entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with aggravated sexual abuse on Nov. 17, 2011.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacob A. Wishard prosecuted the case.

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