



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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NURSE PRACTITIONER AND ASSOCIATES **ARRESTED ON FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES**

United States Attorney Kenneth Gonzales and Joseph M. Arabit, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration – El Paso Field Division (DEA), announced that Gloria Vigil, a 60-year old Nurse Practitioner, Ashley Grey, 27, and Angelica Ortega, 25, all residents of Albuquerque, New Mexico, were arrested on federal drug trafficking charges on July 21, 2010. According to the criminal complaint, the arrests are the result of a nine-month DEA investigation into a prescription drug trafficking ring operating out of Vigil's medical office, *Clinica de la Gloria* (Clinic of Glory), 1720 Bridge Boulevard SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Vigil, Grey and Ortega are scheduled to appear before United States Magistrate Judge Lorenzo F. Garcia at 9:30 a.m. on July 23, 2010.

The criminal complaint alleges that Vigil engaged in a pattern and practice of writing fraudulent prescriptions for oxycodone for individuals who were never treated by Vigil and did not have any medical provider-patient relationship with her medical office. Vigil is accused of selling the fraudulent prescriptions for up to \$250 each. On multiple occasions, DEA Special Agents and Task Force Officers observed individuals leave Vigil's medical office with fraudulent prescriptions, fill the prescriptions at area pharmacies, and then sell the oxycodone shortly thereafter – sometimes in the pharmacy parking lot. Ashley Grey and Angelica Ortega are

charged with conspiring with Vigil to sell the fraudulent prescriptions and/or the oxycodone obtained with the prescriptions for a percentage of the “fee” charged by Vigil. The maximum statutory penalty for the crimes charged is a maximum of twenty years of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$2,000,000 fine.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales stated:

Oxycodone does not historically carry the same social taboo as heroin, meth and cocaine. Unfortunately, we are learning the hard way that it can be just as devastating when abused, and the results, especially among our young people, can be tragic. Everyone, including parents should be aware, that it is readily available on the street to anyone willing to pay for it, even kids. My office is committed to prosecuting those who manipulate the health care system to traffic these extremely addictive pain killers.

DEA Special Agent in Charge Joseph M. Arabit stated:

These arrests should send a message to those within the medical profession that those who choose to violate laws designed to ensure the safe and legal dispensation of pharmaceutical drugs will be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Anderson and was investigated by the DEA in cooperation with the Albuquerque Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office, New Mexico Board of Pharmacy, and the Albuquerque Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A criminal complaint is only an accusation. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For more information on oxycodone and other drugs, the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the DEA El Paso Division encourage parents and their children to visit the following interactive DEA websites: www.justthinktwice.com, www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com and www.dea.gov.