

For Immediate Release
July 18, 2011

HOBBS MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

LAS CRUCES – Today, in federal court in Las Cruces, **Christopher Michael Hernandez**, 33, of Hobbs, New Mexico, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Hernandez will serve a three-year term of supervised release after he completes his prison sentence. Hernandez has been in federal custody since January 28, 2011.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Hernandez initially was charged in a criminal complaint filed on December 22, 2009, and subsequently was indicted on May 19, 2010. According to the indictment, Hernandez possessed a firearm in Lea County on June 22, 2009, and was prohibited from possessing firearms because he previously had been convicted of a narcotics trafficking felony in the Fifth Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico (Chaves County). On July 21, 2010, Hernandez entered a guilty plea to the indictment.

According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, on June 22, 2009, officers of the Hobbs Police Department responded to an alarm at a Hobbs residence. When the officers arrived, an occupant let them in the residence and asked them to check for intruders. As the officers were securing the residence, they saw a Ruger pistol on the coffee table in the living room. The officers obtained a state search warrant and seized the pistol, which was loaded with seven rounds of hollow point ammunition. Laboratory analysis revealed that a fingerprint on the firearm matched a print of Hernandez' right index finger. In his plea agreement, Hernandez admitted that he unlawfully possessed the pistol.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Hobbs Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney

Jacob A. Wishard.

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