



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**NAVAJO MAN FROM TSE-YAH-TOH, N.M., PLEADS GUILTY  
TO FEDERAL CHILD SEX ABUSE CHARGES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in Albuquerque federal court, Kenneth Mike Etsitty, 58, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Tse-Yah-Toh, N.M., pled guilty to an information charging him with three counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a child under the age of 12.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that, under the terms of the plea agreement, Etsitty will be sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment to be followed a supervised release term to be determined by the court. Etsitty also will be required to register as a sex offender. Etsitty remains in federal custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Etsitty was charged with aggravated sexual abuse in a criminal complaint filed on May 14, 2012. He was arrested the following day, and has been in federal custody since that time.

According to the criminal complaint, the FBI initiated a criminal investigation into Etsitty in Feb. 21, 2012, after a nine-year-old Navajo child disclosed that Etsitty had sexually assaulted her more than ten times by penetrating her vagina with his finger. Thereafter, during a voluntary interview, Etsitty admitted sexually assaulting the child victim on approximately ten occasions from the time she was four-years-old and until Nov. 2011, by digitally penetrating her vagina.

In entering his guilty plea this morning, Etsitty admitted that he forced the child victim to engage in sexual acts on multiple occasions from Jan. 2007, when the child was four-years-old, through Nov. 2011, when she was nine-years old. Etsitty admitted that each of the sexual attacks occurred in the same way: he digitally penetrated the child victim, who cried and asked him to stop, while masturbating with his other hand. The offenses occurred in Indian Country.

The case was investigated by the Gallup Office of the FBI and the Crownpoint Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark T. Baker.

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