



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**NAVAJO MAN FROM THOREAU, N.M., PLEADS GUILTY  
TO MISDEMEANOR ASSAULT CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, Jeremy Sandoval, 37, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Thoreau, N.M., plead guilty to a federal misdemeanor assault charge under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

At sentencing, Sandoval faces up to six-months of imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. Sandoval has been in federal custody since Aug. 8, 2012, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Sandoval was arrested on a criminal complaint charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. He was indicted on those charges on Aug. 21, 2012. The indictment alleged that on July 25, 2012, Sandoval used a knife to assault another man and that the victim sustained a serious bodily injury.

According to court records, Sandoval and the victim, another Navajo man, got into an argument over a \$23 debt after they had been drinking alcohol at a residence in Thoreau, which is located on the Navajo Indian Reservation. The argument escalated into a physical confrontation during which Sandoval stabbed the victim several times.

This morning, Sandoval pled guilty to an information charging him with misdemeanor assault. In his plea agreement, Sandoval admitted that on July 25, 2012, he assaulted the victim by striking, beating and wounding him. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the indictment will be dismissed after Sandoval is sentenced.

The case was investigated by the Crownpoint Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney David Adams.

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