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NEWS RELEASE

April 3, 2009
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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Man Pleads Guilty to Sexual Offenses Against Children on Indian Land

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia announced today that a Delaware county man pled guilty in federal court in Tulsa to committing sexual offenses against children.

Edward O'Field, age 79, an Indian male from Colcord, Oklahoma, pled guilty to two counts contained in an Information charging him with sexual offenses against children in Indian Country. On Count 1, Abusive Sexual Contact with a Minor in Indian Country, O'Field admitted to engaging in sexual contact with a two-year-old female child on February 1, 2009, at his residence. In Count 2, O'Field admitted to sexual contact with a four-year-old female child that occurred in the Fall of 2008. In both offenses, O'Field touched the children's genitalia or buttocks to arouse and gratify his sexual desires.

Sentencing in the case is set for July 7, 2009, after the completion of a presentence investigation report by the U.S. Probation Office. O'Field faces a prison sentence of up to life imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on each count. O'Field will also be required to register as a sex offender under the federal Adam Walsh Act.

U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell presided in the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Trent Shores is handling the case for the government. The investigation was undertaken by the Cherokee Nation Marshal's Service and the FBI. This prosecution proceeded in federal court because the alleged crimes occurred in Indian Country, where major criminal offenses fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Courts.

United States Attorney O'Meilia added, "My office will continue to aggressively prosecute predators who sexually abuse children. I recognize and commend the Cherokee Nation Marshal's Service and the FBI for their joint efforts in this investigation."