



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2012
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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES SENTENCE

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced that a federal judge sitting in South Bend, Indiana, imposed the following sentence on February 9, 2012:

Paulino Ascencion-Apolino, 23, of Elkhart and formerly of Indianapolis, was sentenced for conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and mail fraud in the case *US v Ramon Garcia et al.* The Court imposed a sentence of 33 months, imposed no fine, and ordered forfeiture of over \$60,000 seized from several bank accounts. The Court enhanced the sentence because Mr. Ascencion-Apolino helped harbor over 100 aliens.

Mr. Ascencion-Apolino owned and operated a business named Servicios Mi Tierra which had offices in South Bend, Elkhart, and Highland, Indiana. Servicios Mi Tierra created false documents which it presented to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles from Fall of 2010 to May of 2011 to fraudulently obtain registration documents for people who could not legally register their motor vehicles in Indiana. Many of these documents were subsequently placed in the United States mail.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and investigators with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth Hays.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.