

For Immediate Release  
August 30, 2011

**NAVAJO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO  
FEDERAL CHILD ABUSE CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Nathan Yesslith**, a 26-year-old Navajo man who resides outside of Shiprock, New Mexico, entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with child abuse under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Yesslith will be sentenced to a prison term between twelve months and eighteen months to be followed by a year of supervised release. Yesslith has been in federal custody since his arrest on June 7, 2011 and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Yesslith pled guilty to placing his two-year old son in danger on December 8, 2010 when he was driving while intoxicated on the Navajo Indian Reservation and crashed the vehicle in which his son was a passenger. In his plea agreement, Yesslith admitted that, in the middle of the day on December 8, 2010, he was driving recklessly and under the influence of alcohol when he crashed his van into another vehicle. Yesslith further admitted that his two-year old son was in the van and was unrestrained at the time of the collision.

The case was investigated by the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, Shiprock Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark T. Baker.

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