



PRESS RELEASE

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**MESCALERO MAN SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS FOR FEDERAL
INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION**

ALBUQUERQUE – Nathaniel Chee, III, 34, an enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Nation who resides in Mescalero, N.M., was sentenced to 37 months in prison for his involuntary manslaughter conviction in federal court in Las Cruces yesterday. Chee will be on supervised release for three years after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Chee was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the Oct. 3, 2010, death of his six-year-old daughter on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. Chee has been in federal custody since his arrest on Oct. 9, 2010.

Chee, who pled guilty to the involuntary manslaughter charge on June 25, 2012, admitted during his plea hearing that he had been drinking alcohol before permitting his daughter to ride on the running board of the Chevrolet pickup truck Chee was driving. As they traveled on a dirt road outside of Mescalero, Chee's daughter fell from the running board and was killed when the truck ran over her.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Mescalero Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron O. Jordan of the U.S. Attorney's Las Cruces Branch Office.

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12-333