

For Immediate Release
May 3, 2011

**ALABAMA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FAILURE
TO REGISTER AS SEX OFFENDER CHARGE**
[CORRECTED]

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court in Albuquerque, **Oscar L. Blair**, 38, entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with failure to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). At sentencing, Blair, who previously has been convicted of two sex crimes in the state of Alabama, faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and up to three years of supervised release. Blair has been in federal custody since his arrest on February 1, 2011 and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Blair initially was charged on January 26, 2011 in a criminal complaint alleging a violation of SORNA, which is also known as the Adam Walsh Protection and Safety Act. SORNA requires that a convicted sex offender register in each jurisdiction where the offender resides, where the offender is employed, or where the offender is a student, and that the sex offender maintain current registrations. Blair was indicted for that same offense on February 10, 2011. This morning, Blair pleaded guilty to the indictment under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office.

According to court filings, Blair was in violation of his SORNA registration requirements because he had failed to register as a sex offender in New Mexico after traveling to New Mexico from Alabama where he previously had been convicted of rape and sexual misconduct. In his plea agreement, Blair admitted that he pled guilty to a rape offense in Henry County, Alabama in 1992, and that he was convicted of sexual misconduct in Henry County, Alabama in 1998. Blair also admitted that he first registered as a sex offender as a lifetime registrant in Alabama in

March 1997. Although Blair updated his registration in Alabama in February 2010, Blair left Alabama on October 1, 2010 and traveled to New Mexico. Blair admitted that he failed to notify law enforcement authorities in the state of Alabama that he was moving out of Alabama, and that he failed to notify law enforcement authorities in the state of New Mexico of his new address in New Mexico. Blair also acknowledged knowing that he was required to make these notifications to the states of Alabama and New Mexico, and to register as a sex offender in Bernalillo County when he moved to New Mexico in October 2010.

Assistant United States Attorney Charles L. Barth is prosecuting this case, which was investigated by the United States Marshals Service.

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