

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2011

**SAN FELIPE PUEBLO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, this morning, **Patrick Valencia**, 43, a member of the Pueblo of San Felipe who resides in Algodones, New Mexico, entered a guilty plea to abusive sexual contact of a child under 16 years of age. The plea was entered in Albuquerque federal court under a plea agreement with the United States Attorney's Office. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Valencia will be sentenced to an eight-year term of imprisonment to be followed by not more than five years of supervised release. Valencia will be required to register as a sex offender when he completes his prison sentence. At the conclusion of today's hearing, Valencia was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Service, and will be detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

On December 15, 2010, a federal grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging Valencia with one count of abusive sexual contact and two counts of sexual abuse. According to the indictment, Valencia engaged in this unlawful conduct between June 20, 2009 and June 30, 2009 within Indian Country. This morning, Valencia pleaded guilty to a one-count information charging him with abusive sexual contact involving a child under 16 years of age. Under the terms of Valencia's plea agreement, the indictment against Valencia will be dismissed after he is sentenced.

In entering his plea, Valencia admitted that, sometime in mid-to-late June 2009, he sexually molested a child by touching her genital area. Valencia admitted that the child was not yet 16 years of age at the time of the unlawful sexual abuse and that the abuse occurred in his

residence which is located within the Pueblo of San Felipe.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Northern Pueblos Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer M. Rozzoni.

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