

For Immediate Release
October 5, 2011

**SANTA CLARA PUEBLO MAN RECEIVES 34-MONTH
PRISON SENTENCE FOR FEDERAL CHILD SEX ABUSE
CONVICTION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE VIOLATION**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in federal court in Albuquerque, **Steven Henry Sisneros**, 27, was sentenced to a 30-month term of imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release for a child sexual abuse conviction. Sisneros also was sentenced to an additional four months imprisonment for violating his supervised release on a 2005 federal conviction for aggravated assault sexual abuse, for a total sentence of 34 months imprisonment. Sisneros will be required to register as a sex offender after he completes his prison sentence.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Sisneros, an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Santa Clara in Rio Arriba County, was arrested on March 26, 2011 based on a criminal complaint alleging sexual abuse of a minor in Indian Country. More specifically, the complaint alleged that Sisneros engaged in a sexual act with a child, who had attained the age of 12 years, but not the age of 16 years. Sisneros was indicted on this offense on April 13, 2011. Sisneros has been in federal custody since his arrest.

According to court records, on March 25, 2011, the Santa Clara Tribal Police Department went to Sisneros' residence on the Pueblo of Santa Clara in connection with an investigation into a 15-year old runaway female (the child). Although the officers did not make contact with Sisneros at this time, within thirty minutes, the child turned herself in at the Tribal Police Department offices. During interviews with a Santa Clara Tribal Police Officer and a Special Agent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the child reported that she had been staying with Sisneros since March 21, 2011 and had engaged in sexual acts with Sisneros on multiple occasions at his residence since that date. The child also reported that Sisneros was aware that she was only

15-years old.

Sisneros entered a guilty plea to the indictment on June 21, 2011, during which he admitted having sex with the child, and acknowledged knowing that the child was only 15 years of age at the time. At the time Sisneros committed the offense, he was on supervised release from a 2005 federal conviction for aggravated sexual abuse.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Northern Pueblos Agency and the Santa Clara Tribal Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark T. Baker.

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