

Crownpoint man sentenced to eight years in prison

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Charge: abusive sexual contact with a minor in Indian Country

An enrolled member of the Navajo Nation received a sentence of eight years and one month in federal court Dec. 29 for two convictions of abusive sexual contact with a minor in Indian Country.

Emerson Pinto, 58, of Crownpoint, N.M. pleaded guilty on Aug. 11, admitting that he knowingly engaged in unlawful sexual contact with two victims under the age of 12 at the time [between Sept. 1, 2009 and Oct. 31, 2009]. Pinto admitted to touching the girls for sexual gratification during a visit to the victims' home on the Navajo Nation in McKinley County.

Upon release from prison, Pinto will be subject to five years of supervised release and will be required to register as a sex offender.

The Gallup Resident Agency of the FBI Albuquerque Field Office investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Novaline D. Wilson prosecuted the case.

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