



# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL PRISON EMPLOYEE CONVICTED OF PROVIDING  
CONTRABAND TO INMATES AT FCI ESTILL**

Columbia, South Carolina ---- Acting United States Attorney Kevin F.

McDonald stated today That Victor Rodriguez, age 49, of Rincon, Georgia, pled guilty today in federal court in Charleston, to providing contraband materials to inmates at a federal prison, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791. Senior United States District Judge Sol Blatt, Jr., accepted the plea and will sentence Rodriguez at a later date.

Evidence presented at the guilty plea hearing established that Rodriguez was employed as a recreation specialist at the Federal Correctional Institute at Estill, South Carolina. In 2007, federal investigators received information that Rodriguez was secretly bringing contraband materials, such as tobacco and

pornography, into the prison and providing it to the inmates. An investigation began which revealed that Rodriguez had received Western Union payments of more than \$4,000 from a Florida woman who was associated with an inmate at the Estill prison. When questioned by investigators, the woman claimed that she was told by her inmate friend that she would be receiving money from the family of inmates and that she was to send that money to Rodriguez. The woman also stated that she drove from Florida three times to meet with Rodriguez and give him tobacco and pornography that she had been instructed to buy. When interviewed, Rodriguez admitted that the woman had sent him the money, but claimed that it was in exchange for paralegal work he had done for her. He denied that she provided him with anything to take into the prison or that he had ever provided any contraband to inmates. With trial scheduled to begin next week, Rodriguez today admitted that he had in fact been paid to smuggle contraband into the prison.

Mr. McDonald stated the maximum penalty Rodriguez can receive is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for six months.

The case was investigated by agents of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Alston C. Badger of the Charleston office handled the case.

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