



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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December 1, 2011

**PERMIAN BASIN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR
SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR MAKING FALSE CLAIMS TO THE GOVERNMENT**

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that in Midland this morning, 61-year-old Ismael Hernandez Sanchez of Odessa, Texas, a licensed chemical dependency counselor doing business as "SR & Associates," was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for fraudulently billing the Government for an estimated \$100,000 in counseling services which he never provided to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmates.

In addition, United States District Judge Robert A. Junell ordered Sanchez to pay \$95,000 restitution to the federal government and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On August 25, 2011, a federal jury convicted Sanchez of six false statements counts. Testimony provided during trial revealed that in September 2006, Sanchez was selected to be the local provider for substance abuse treatment services to federal offenders who were being supervised by the Court following their federal incarceration and to defendants who were being supervised while their trials were pending. Per the agreement, Sanchez was to perform family counseling at \$70/hour, individual counseling at \$56/hour and group counseling at \$40/hour to BOP inmates being housed at, or supervised by, the Dismas Charities Halfway House in Midland. Testimony further revealed that in 2009, Sanchez filed six separate false claims in which Sanchez knowingly made false representations to BOP for reimbursement for family counseling services which never occurred.

During sentencing, Judge Junell made specific factual findings that Sanchez abused a position of trust and too, that Sanchez's execution of a false affidavit for investigators in which he falsely averred that he had, in fact, performed all the family counseling for which he submitted claims, had the effect of substantially impeding the investigation.

This case was investigated by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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