



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

John E. Murphy, U.S. Attorney

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Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer

(210) 384-7440

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**JURY CONVICTS PERMIAN BASIN CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR
OF MAKING FALSE CLAIMS TO THE GOVERNMENT**

United States Attorney John E. Murphy announced that in Midland today, a federal jury found 61-year-old Ismael Hernandez Sanchez of Odessa, Texas, a licensed chemical dependency counselor doing business as "SR & Associates," guilty of fraudulently billing the Government for an estimated \$100,000 in counseling services which he never provided to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmates.

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 whereby Sanchez knowingly made false representations to BOP for reimbursement for family counseling services which never occurred.

Sanchez faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count. Sentencing has yet to be scheduled.

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

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