



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Albuquerque Man Sentenced to Three Years In Prison For Embezzlement and Tax Evasion**

ALBUQUERQUE – A former employee for an Albuquerque security firm was sentenced last week to three years in prison for stealing over \$67,000 from the company payroll.

Gilbert C. Baca III, 35, of Albuquerque, pleaded guilty to one count of attempt to evade or defeat tax, one count of fraud and five counts of embezzlement for embezzling \$67,634 from Skillstorm Security, a San Diego company with a branch in Albuquerque.

Baca operated a “ghost-employee scheme” wherein he added former employees and individuals who had never been employed at Skillstorm onto payroll and converted the payroll checks to his benefit. Baca also intercepted and misappropriated incoming payments to the company and converted those funds to his benefit as well.

Baca pleaded guilty in October and was facing a maximum of 21 years in prison. Judge Denise Barela Shepherd, who accepted the guilty plea, sentenced Baca to three years in prison on Dec. 16.

Investigation into this case was jointly conducted by the Taxation and Revenue Department’s Tax Fraud Investigations Division and the Albuquerque Police Department-White Collar Crimes Unit.