



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
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(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
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Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Susana Martinez
Governor
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Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former New Mexico Finance Authority Employee Pleads Guilty To Fraud and Tax Evasion

SANTA FE – A former New Mexico Finance Authority employee pleaded guilty to stealing over \$59,000 from the Authority's inactive accounts and was sentenced to five years supervised probation this week.

Valerie Sandoval, 41, of Bernalillo, also pleaded guilty to evading taxes before First Judicial District Court Judge Michael Vigil in Santa Fe on Wednesday. Judge Vigil placed her on five years of probation and ordered her to pay \$59,000 in restitution, along with nearly \$3,500 in taxes to the State.

Between August and December 2009, Sandoval stole the money from NMFA's inactive accounts and deposited it into the bank accounts of her friend Maynor Garcia, owner of Native Touch Galleries in Santa Fe. No charges have been filed against Garcia.

New Mexico State Police began an investigation into Sandoval's criminal activity in January 2010. The First Judicial District Attorney's Office in Santa Fe filed a criminal complaint against Sandoval in September 2011.

This investigation was done jointly by New Mexico State Police and the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the State Taxation and Revenue Department.

To report tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, contact the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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