



Susana Martinez
Governor

Demesia Padilla, CPA
Cabinet Secretary

For Immediate Release
8/11/2015

Contact: Ben Cloutier
(505) 670-7024
Benjamin.Cloutier@state.nm.us

Former Behavioral Health Employee Charged with Attempted Tax Evasion

Santa Fe, NM – A Rio Rancho man, who was charged with embezzling more than \$100,000 from behavioral health company Easter Seals el Mirador, is now facing attempted tax evasion charges for allegedly failing to pay more than \$10,000 in personal income tax, from 2010 to 2013. Ricardo Franco, 31, served as a financial specialist at Easter Seals. Franco is also alleged to have hidden or destroyed overtime sheets to hide his embezzlement.

“We will aggressively pursue tax evaders in New Mexico,” said Demesia Padilla, Secretary for the Taxation and Revenue Department. “This indictment should make it clear that no one is above the law when it comes to paying their fair share of taxes.”

Franco was indicted on four felony counts of attempting to defeat or evade tax. He was charged by a Santa Fe Grand Jury in the First Judicial District Court of Santa Fe County.

This case was investigated by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department’s Tax Fraud Investigations Division. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the 24 hour Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

###