



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL WOMAN SENTENCED TO OVER 22 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
IN CONNECTION WITH OVERDOSE DEATH**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that United States District Court Judge Robert Junell sentenced Tiofila Santillana, 46, to 266 months in federal prison as a result of her conviction on charges stemming from the overdose death of a 21-year-old man in April of 2008. Her co-defendant, Emily Micah Suckarieh, 22, was sentenced on February 5, 2009, to 21 months in federal prison for her role in the overdose death.

Santillana was convicted by a federal jury in Midland, on January 7, 2009, on charges stemming from the April 10, 2008, death of Brandon Moore. According to the indictment Brandon Moore was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital after friends could not rouse him from sleep despite several hours of effort. Moore was placed on a ventilator and admitted to intensive care, where he never regained consciousness. He died on April 23, 2008, of acute mixed drug intoxication. Santillana was charged with distributing the methadone, and Suckarieh the benzodiazepine, or "Xanax", that were consumed by Moore before he lost consciousness.

The Midland Police Department and the Midland County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration to conduct this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted the case for the Government.

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