**Level 2 Sex Offender Notification**

**Benjamin Ray Valdez**

New Address: 13583 E. 54th Drive – Yuma, AZ 85367

The Yuma County Sheriff’s Office (YCSO) is releasing the following information pursuant to A.R.S. 13-3825, the Community Notification on Sex Offenders Law. The offender in this publication is living within Yuma County. It is the responsibility of the Chief Law Enforcement Office having jurisdiction where the offender resides to make notification to the community. Notification must be made when certain sex offenders are released from the Arizona State Prison, accepted under an interstate compact or released from the county jail back into the community. Offenders are categorized into three levels: Level One (low risk to the community), Level Two (intermediate risk to the community), and Level Three (high risk to the community).

The individual who appears on this notification, **Benjamin Ray Valdez**, 41, has been convicted of a sex offense that allows for community notification. Benjamin Ray Valdez has advised the YCSO that he is residing at 13583 E. 54th Drive in Yuma, Arizona. He is described as 5 feet, 8 inches tall, 161 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He is not wanted by the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office at this time.

On October 31, 2014, Valdez pled guilty in the Pierce County Superior Court in Tacoma, Washington to one count of Child Molestation in the Third Degree. He was sentenced to twelve months and one day confinement in the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center in Connell, Washington, followed by thirty-six months community supervision by the Department of Corrections in Tacoma, Washington. The victim was a female juvenile known to him.

On April 14, 2017, Valdez pled guilty in the Pierce County Superior Court in Tacoma, Washington to four counts of Child Molestation in the Second Degree DV. He was sentenced to 116 months in the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center in Connell, Washington. The victim was a female juvenile known to him. Benjamin Valdez is currently on supervised probation for thirty-six months with the Yuma County Adult Probation.

Benjamin Valdez is considered a Level 2 sex offender with an intermediate risk to reoffend.
This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, it is our belief that an informed community is a safer community. The YCSO has no legal authority to direct where a sex offender may or may not live. Unless court ordered restrictions exist, this offender is constitutionally free to live wherever he/she chooses. Citizen abuses of this information to threaten, intimidate, or harass sex offenders will not be tolerated. Sex Offenders have always lived in our communities; but because of Megan’s law, law enforcement is now able to share this information with you.

The YCSO would like to remind the public of the registered sex offender and community notification program OffenderWatch. To register for free email alerts or search for sex offenders in your area, please visit the YCSO OffenderWatch page.

If you have information regarding current criminal activity on this or any other offender, please call the Yuma County Sheriff’s Office at (928) 783-4427.

**Information Released By:** Tania Pavla, Public Affairs Specialist