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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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**CONTRACTOR CONVICTED...AGAIN!!!**

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez announced today the sentencing of a Landscaping Contractor accused of 3 charges of Deceptive Business Practices.

On Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> in County Criminal Court #1 Gerardo Rangel, doing business as “Rangel General Construction and Landscaping,” pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to one year probation, to serve 450 hours of community service, and to pay \$4,850 in restitution to the victims. The judge also assessed a \$6,000 fine, which was probated.

According to the criminal complaints, between March 24 and August 27, 2006, Rangel received \$6,400 in advance to do landscaping work at 3 residences in East El Paso, but failed to complete the work.

Rangel had previously pled guilty to 5 charges of Deceptive Business Practices in June, 2005 and sentenced to 1 year in prison but granted ‘work release’ privileges. However he was re-arrested after failing to comply with the “work release” order and served approximately 10 months in jail.

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez said consumers should always check the background on contractors before giving them their hard earned money.

“In these cases, had the consumers checked Mr. Rangel’s background, they would have found that he had been previously convicted of Deceptive Business practices,” said Rodríguez.

“Consumers should always check the reputation of the vendor with agencies such as the Better Business Bureau, the Texas Attorney General, or our office” said Rodríguez.

For more information please contact Assistant County Attorney Kent Sutton at 546-2050.