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Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore today released the following statement:

On Friday, Paul Anthony Ojeda was convicted by a Travis County jury for two cases of continuous sexual abuse of a child. These cases involved two sisters (both under the age of eight at the time of the offenses) who were sexually abused by their step-father from October of 2009 until January of 2014. The abuse would occur at night when the mother was at work and the defendant would wake the girls up and take them to his bed where he would sexually assault them on a regular basis. The older sister outcried about the abuse to her mother in 2015.

The trial began last week on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the 450<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court and was presided over by Judge Brad Urrutia. The jury convicted Mr. Ojeda for repeatedly sexually abusing both victims and sentenced him to 45 years in prison for the offenses of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child and Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, and the jury sentenced Ojeda to 20 years in prison for the lesser charges of Indecency with a Child by Contact. Mr. Ojeda will not be eligible for parole under the Continuous Sexual Assault of a Child statute.

The case was tried by Special Victims Unit prosecutors Erika Sipiora and Anna Lee McNelis. Asst. D.A. McNelis stated after the verdict: "We are grateful for the time, attention and dedication the jury gave to their deliberations. The jury's verdict was a reflection of the immense value our community places on the safety of our children. We are lucky the citizens of Travis County count its children as its most valuable asset."

As a side note, April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.