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

This week Travis County prosecutors secured a guilty verdict and a nine-year prison sentence against a serial domestic abuser, Andrew Trowbridge, aged 33. The defendant was charged with felony family violence assault, normally a class A misdemeanor, but enhanced to a third-degree felony in this case because of the defendant's three prior family violence convictions. (In Texas, the punishment range for a third degree felony is 2-10 years in prison, and up to a \$10,000 fine.)

The defendant was found guilty of this offense on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, by a Travis County jury, and was sentenced the following day, after a punishment hearing, by Judge Bob Perkins to nine years, one year less than the maximum.

The Defendant had been on parole for a family violence case when he assaulted this new victim in July of 2016. On that date, Trowbridge entered his common law wife's home, angry about cats that were loose in the yard. He first threw her onto the couch then, when she tried to get away and call for help, he grabbed her by the hair and threw her onto the ground, kicking her in the head and punching her in the face. She managed to call 911 and when police arrived, they saw bruises, swelling, and abrasions on her body.

During the punishment phase, the State offered witnesses documenting the Defendant's abuse to three prior victims. Two of the Defendant's former victims testified and presented the court with compelling evidence of years of abuse they suffered at the hands of the Defendant. They each stressed to the court that he will find a new victim to abuse yet again, just as he had moved on from them before meeting his current victim.

Lead prosecutor Brandy Gann said: "This was a difficult case because, by the time of trial, the victim recanted, and testified on the Defendant's behalf, which often happens in these cases. We felt it crucial to persevere with the prosecution for her safety and the safety of potential future victims. We wanted to ensure the defendant was held accountable for his violent behavior."