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Travis County District Attorney's Office Secures Convictions on Three Sexual Assault Cases This Week

State v. Andrew Charles Gibson [D-1-DC-18-904007]

Andrew Gibson as convicted of Super Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. The victim was his four year old step-niece. The defendant has previous convictions on three separate sexual offenses against adult women in both Florida and Illinois. Under Texas law, this made the Defendant eligible for an automatic life sentence. Judge Brenda P. Kennedy sentenced the defendant to life without the possibility of parole.

The offense was reported in 2017 and was investigated by the Pflugerville Police Department. The child victim testified with the assistance of a trained therapy dog named Mickler; his training was sponsored by the Center for Child Protection here in Travis County.

Assistant District Attorney Joe Frederick stated, "I am grateful and appreciative of the jury's hard work and dedication in providing justice to the victim, her family and the community."

State v. Leon Young [D-1-DC-15-100069]

In the second case, a Travis County jury convicted Leon Young, a former AISD school bus driver, of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. The jury sentenced the defendant to 30 years in TDCJ on the Aggravated Assault with Child. Defendant Young has no prior criminal history

On April 17, 2015, an AISD police officer took a report of Defendant Leon Young inappropriately touching a six-year old student. After conducting an investigation, officers learned that an AISD Assistant Principal had previously witnessed the defendant engaging in suspicious conduct with the victim but failed to report the incident to authorities. That principal's employment with AISD was subsequently terminated.

Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Morgan, "I am pleased with the jury's hard work in this case. Child abuse cases are some of the most difficult cases that our criminal justice system litigates, partly because they deal with a violation of a trusted relationship. Children should always feel safe when they are in the care of authority figures and any school employee who abuses his or her trusted position to harm a child should know that this office and this community take these crimes very seriously."

State v. Nicodemo Coria-Gonzalez

Nicodemo Coria-Gonzalez was convicted of the offense of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a female adult victim. The offense occurred on April 11, 2016 and the victim was walking down the street when she was hit in the head. She woke up and was in a vehicle and the defendant was holding her down between the seats. The defendant stopped at a remote location on Ferguson Lane in Austin and sexually assaulted the victim several times while holding a knife to her throat. She was able to get away and called 911 while hiding in the bushes. A SAFE exam was conducted.

The jury deliberated for approximately four hours before returning a guilty verdict. In sentencing the state called three additional victims that had been taken to the same location and sexually assaulted on December 5, 2015, May 15, 2016, and July 23, 2016. Those three victims also had SAFE exams. The defendant's DNA was linked to each victim.

The jury sentenced the defendant to life in TDCJ and a \$1000 fine.