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Today, a Travis County jury convicted Maria Miranda-Aguirre of two counts of Trafficking a Person and one count of Indecency with a Child by Contact in the 167<sup>th</sup> District Court. In April of 2018, an 11-year old child made an outcry of repeated sexual abuse. It was later learned that the defendant, a trusted family friend, would remove the child from her school and take her to a motel where she was repeatedly sexually abused by the defendant's boyfriend in front of the defendant's young children. The defendant would encourage the sexual acts and would remain in the room while the sexual abuse took place. On at least one occasion, the defendant participated in the sexual acts.

During the punishment phase of the trial, Judge David Wahlberg listened to the testimony of the victim's mother regarding the victim's trauma and the deep and lasting impact it had on their family. He assessed punishment at 12 years in the Texas Department of Corrections for the two counts of Trafficking and 6 years for the count of Indecency by Contact. Six of the jurors from the guilt innocence stage of the trial remained in the courtroom for the punishment hearing by the Court. Both prosecutors on the case, Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Wolfe and Bret Benedict of the Special Victims Unit, are appreciative of the jury's careful examination of the evidence in reaching their verdict.