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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD

February 4, 2015

GALVESTON - Today a jury convicted Gary James Cox of the felony offenses of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, Attempted Sexual Performance of a Child, and Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

Evidence presented at trial demonstrated that Cox was required to register as a sex offender for previous convictions of aggravated sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child by contact. The League City Police Department reported that Cox lived with a family, including children, in League City for months, and violated his requirements as a sex offender by never reporting this residence to the League City police. In addition to failing to register, the parents at the residence where the defendant was residing testified that they discovered the defendant had given their 13 year old daughter a cell phone without their knowledge. The phone contained sexually explicit messages that the defendant sent to the 13 year old girl, including messages requesting that the girl send the defendant nude photos of herself. After discovering the phone, the 3 year old daughter that was living at the same residence was also questioned. The 3 year old disclosed that she had been sexually assaulted by Cox.

Cox was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Adam Poole and Elizabeth Cuchens in the 122nd District Court, with Judge John Ellisor presiding, and Michael Gillman representing the defendant.

The jury deliberated less than two hours before finding the defendant Guilty of all three charges. Shortly after the verdict, a punishment hearing was held before Judge Ellisor. Prosecutor Poole reintroduced all of the evidence from the guilt/innocence portion of the trial, including the defendant's prior convictions and the fact that the defendant also possessed child pornography on his home computers. The defendant was sentenced to life in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, without the possibility of parole, for the Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child charge and sentenced to 10 years for each of the other charges.

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