



**COUNTY of GALVESTON**  
Criminal District Attorney  
**JACK ROADY**

**Kevin Petroff**  
First Assistant

**Johnny J. Freeze**  
Chief Investigator

**Zonia Wilturner-Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JURY SENTENCES MAN TO 35 YEARS FOR  
CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD**

June 16, 2015

GALVESTON – Yesterday a jury sentenced Hector Antonio Rios to 35 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for the felony offense of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child. Rios was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Adam Poole and Richard Hayes, II in the 212th District Court, with Judge Patricia Grady presiding. Bob Loper represented the defendant.

The victim testified that over a two year period, while 8-years-old and 9-years-old, Rios sexually abused the victim about every other night. Testimony also showed that Rios knew the victim prior to the sexual abuse occurring.

After a two day trial, the jury took only 20 minutes to find Rios guilty. The Defendant faced a sentencing range of 25 to 99 years or Life in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Under current law, enacted in 2007 when the State Legislature created the new offense of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, continuous sexual abuse is defined as involving repeated (two or more) acts of sexual abuse against a child under age 14 over a period of at least 30 days. The State Legislature also raised the minimum punishment from 5 years to 25 years for this specific offense, while identifying it as a first degree felony offense, which normally has a 5 year minimum punishment.

After the conclusion of the punishment phase, the jury sentenced Hector Antonio Rios to 35 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Rios will not be eligible for parole and once released will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

**Felony Section**  
Off: 409-766-2355

**Family Law Section**  
409-766-2364

**Grand Jury Section**  
409-766-2379

**Worthless Check Section**  
409-766-2429

**Felony Victim's Asst.**  
409-770-5124

**Houston Line**  
281-316-8300

**Fax: 409-766-2290**

[www.co.galveston.tx.us](http://www.co.galveston.tx.us)

**600 59<sup>TH</sup> Street, Suite 1001 • Galveston, Texas 77551-4137**