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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MAN SENTENCED TO 45 YEARS FOR THE MURDER OF A CHILD**

September 4, 2015

GALVESTON – Today, Derek Leslie Wells, 26, pled guilty to Murder and accepted an agreed sentence of 45 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Wells was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam Poole, with Judge Lonnie Cox, in the 56th Judicial District Court, presiding. Greg Russell represented Wells.

According to a League City Police Department police affidavit, on June 24, 2014, Wells called 911 and reported that his two-year-old son was “non-responsive and not breathing properly.” The child was taken to Clear Lake Regional Hospital, where doctors discovered the child had a brain bleed, a possible skull fracture, and bruises covering his body. In addition the child was found to be malnourished. On June 25, 2014, the child was placed on life support, after being transferred to Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, and later died.

Initially, Wells denied causing the injuries and said he didn’t know how the injuries occurred. Wells was arrested and charged with Injury to a Child, a first degree felony. While in custody, Wells told officers that “he gets frustrated” with the child and “had been hitting him harder than he should.”

In September 2014, Wells was indicted, by a Grand Jury, for murder. Wells faced a sentencing range of 5 years to 99 years or Life in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Wells must serve a minimum of fifty percent of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

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