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 28 YEARS FOR AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD

September 18, 2015

GALVESTON – Yesterday a jury sentenced Michael Arthur Enriquez, 60, to 28 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for the felony offense of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. Enriquez was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Beverly Armstrong and T. Philip Washington in the 212th District Court, with Judge Patricia Grady presiding. Patricia Cantu represented the defendant.

The victim testified that the sexual assault occurred in November 2013. The victim and parent both testified that the victim told the parent about the sexual assault later on the same day, before going to the hospital for an exam. Testimony from the Texas Department of Public Safety Houston Crime Lab Forensic Analyst explained that the vaginal swabs taken from the victim, at the hospital, showed the presence of Enriquez' DNA.

Enriquez did not testify at trial but did present testimony from two family members. Both testified they were angry with the defendant when first finding out about the sexual assault. They both talked about their family's relationship between with the victim, describing the relationship as very close. Neither witness could offer any testimony concerning what happened between Enriquez and the victim, on the day of the sexual assault.

After three days of trial, the jury took about a day to find Enriquez guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. The Defendant faced a sentencing range of 5 to 99 years or Life in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

During punishment, the State presented evidence of a prior 2009 felony theft charge for which Enriquez pled guilty and received deferred adjudication. Enriquez presented testimony from his son and pleaded for the

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Off: 409-766-2355	409-766-2364	409-766-2379	409-766-2429	409-770-5124	281-316-8300

Fax: 409-766-2290

www.co.galveston.tx.us

600 59TH Street, Suite 1001 • Galveston, Texas 77551-4137

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jury to show him mercy and consider his age, health issues, and ailing father when determining his sentence. The State argued to the jury that Enriquez should be punished for his crime and that the mercy and consideration he was asking for from the jury was not deserved as he did not show any mercy or consideration when he sexually assaulted the victim, who was just a child.

At the close of punishment, the jury quickly returned a sentencing verdict of 28 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Once released from prison, Enriquez will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

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