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Press Release

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Man Sentenced to 1 Year in County Jail for Family Violence Assault

GALVESTON – On Wednesday, Darrell Alonzo Henry, Jr., 25, was found guilty by a jury for the misdemeanor offense of assault causing bodily injury involving family violence and was sentenced by Judge Barbara Roberts to one year in the County Jail.

On Monday, May 16, 2016 the jury trial began in County Court #2. During the next two days, the State presented witness testimony and other evidence describing the domestic assault that occurred on September 20, 2015 at the hands of Henry.

Henry and the victim had been in dating relationship for several months when on the morning of September 20, 2015 the two began arguing. The argument turned physical when Henry punched the victim in the face and then used a can of air freshener to beat the victim in the head. At one point during the assault, Henry grabbed the victim around her neck and attempted to strangle her. The victim was able to get free from Henry and ran to a neighboring apartment where she asked the resident to call the police.

When officers arrived the victim's face was covered in blood and she had a gash on her head. Officers saw only minimal injuries, a scratch on the eyebrow and an abrasion on the knuckles, on Henry and determined that the hand injuries were consistent with hitting something.

While the victim initially cooperated with the police and assisted prosecutors with the investigation, she had become uncooperative shortly after charges were filed. The State, nevertheless, went forward with the case because prosecutors believed the evidence proved Henry's guilt and justice required holding Henry accountable for his crime. The victim ultimately testified at trial about Henry's violence against her.

ADA Andrew Stallings argued during closing that there was no evidence that Henry was "just defending himself" and asked the jury to follow the evidence which all showed that Henry was the aggressor and had assaulted the victim. The jury deliberated for about 2 hours before returning a guilty verdict around 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

During the punishment hearing to the court, the State offered postings made by Henry to his Facebook page. In the posts Henry promotes images of violence and an affiliation with gangs. The court also heard evidence about multiple 911 calls involving domestic violence requesting police assistance to the residence, showing the history of violence in the relationship. Shortly before 5:00 pm the court announced its decision, sentencing Henry to one year in the county jail and assessing a \$500.00 fine. In addition, the court made an affirmative finding of family violence, making it unlawful for Henry to possess or transfer a firearm or ammunition for five years following his release from custody for this conviction.

Henry was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Andrew Stallings and Anthony Smith in County Court #2, with Judge Barbara Roberts presiding. The investigation was conducted by the Galveston Police Department.