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PRESS RELEASE

April 27, 2016

Defendant Gets Life in Prison for Continual Sexual Abuse of a Child

Bernard Elbert Hopkins, 47 of Point Blank Texas, was arrested on November 19, 2015 for Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child (under 14) and held in the San Jacinto County Jail on a \$303,000 bond as was ordered on the arrest warrant.

The investigation was conducted by San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office, Detective Sergeant Amy McCorkle over the past year. Sergeant McCorkle took the original report while on patrol as a deputy in June of 2015. She was promoted in August of 2015 and assigned to investigate crimes against women and children.

In early June of 2015, one child made an outcry. A forensic interview was conducted later that month and the victim (ten year old female) confirmed she had been sexually assaulted. During the interview it was determined the abuse began when she was 3-years-old and continued until she was approximately 9-years-old.

During the investigation, Sergeant McCorkle discovered a previous victim of the Defendant. This victim, a female, made an outcry and reported sexual abuse in 1995. This victim stated she also was sexually abused by the Defendant starting at approximately four years of age. This abuse continued over a period of approximately thirteen years, until she was 17-years-old. No charges were filed and the case was eventually listed as inactive. Harris County Child Protective Services documentation showed this victim was removed from the home, the defendant completed mandatory counseling and the victim was returned to the home, where the sexual abuse resumed.

Both victims, independent of each other, gave very detailed and graphic statements in regard to the sexual abuse they endured by the Defendant. The statements were corroborated throughout the investigation.

The San Jacinto County District Attorney's Office offered Defendant a sentence of 25 years without the possibility of parole, the minimum sentence available for the offense. Defendant declined the offer, electing a trial by jury. The case went to trial on Monday, April 25, 2016, in the 411th District Court, presided over by Judge Kacee Jones. On Wednesday, April 27, 2016, the jury found Defendant Bernard Elbert Hopkins guilty of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child under 14, a first degree felony. The jury sentenced the defendant to life in prison without the possibility of parole.



Bernard Elbert Hopkins WM 47