



PRESS RELEASE

Defendant Sentenced to 25 Years for Sexual Abuse

October 21, 2016

Bryan, TX – Yesterday, a Brazos County jury convicted Albert Ridgeway, 64, of Pottsboro, Texas of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child Under the Age of 14. The jury then sentenced Ridgeway to 25 years in prison.

The case arose in 2014 when the victim, who was related to Ridgeway, disclosed to her mother that Ridgeway had abused her in 2004 when they both lived in the Bryan area. The victim, who now lives in Arizona, was interviewed by authorities in that state who then forwarded information to the Brazos County Sheriff's Office. In addition, a prosecutor and an investigator from the Brazos County District Attorney's Office travelled to Arizona to interview the victim, her mother, and other witnesses.

At trial, prosecutors called the victim to testify about the abuse she suffered. The victim's mother, aunt, and stepfather also testified. Prosecutors also called a child-psychologist from Houston to describe the effect that sexual abuse often has on young children, and to talk about how children process trauma they have experienced.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors presented evidence of Ridgeway's prior convictions for Possession of Cocaine, Theft, and Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon. The case was investigated by officers from the Brazos County Sheriff's Office, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Arizona, and the Brazos County District Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Brazos County Assistant District Attorneys, Ryan Calvert and Ekua Assabill.

“There is no time limit on justice for this type of crime. When child sexual abuse comes to light, it will be aggressively pursued, regardless of how long ago it occurred. ”

- Ryan Calvert & Ekua Assabill, Assistant District Attorneys

