



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Maximum Prison Sentence for Domestic Violence Offender October 14, 2022**

Bryan, TX – On Thursday, October 13, 2022, Judge Kyle Hawthorne sentenced Charles Joshua Raines to the maximum 20 years in prison for Continuous Violence Against the Family. Raines was convicted of the felony offense by a Brazos County jury on October 12, 2022. He faced an enhanced range of punishment due to a previous prison trip for Aggravated Assault.

On December 7, 2015, College Station police officers responded to a 911 call, where they found the defendant's mother-in-law with severe swelling and large laceration to her face. The woman reported that she and Raines lived together, with her daughter and that Raines had punched her after becoming angry. Emergency Room doctors determined that the 57-year-old woman had sustained multiple fractures in the bones around her eye where she was struck by the defendant. Raines was arrested that day for Assault Family Violence.

Just two months later, on February 8, 2016, College Station dispatch received a 911 call from a concerned citizen who reported she heard a woman screaming for help and saw a man dragging the woman by the hair down the sidewalk. College Station police responded and spoke with the victim who stated that she was pregnant with Raines's child. The victim reported that she had recently left the defendant, and he had arrived unexpectedly at the hotel room where she and her mother were staying.

After arriving, the defendant began strangling her. The victim was able to get outside the hotel room, but the defendant ran after her. When he caught her, he grabbed her by the hair and started dragging her back toward the hotel room. The defendant then punched the victim in the face. Police found the victim with multiple injuries, including a black eye, as a result of the assault. Raines was again arrested for Assault Family Violence. These charges were ultimately combined and indicted as Continuous Violence Against the Family, a third-degree felony.





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During trial, the jury heard that Raines had made multiple attempts to intimidate and threaten the two victims to keep them from cooperating with the prosecution.

During the punishment phase of the trial, Judge Hawthorne learned about Raines's criminal history. In 2001, the defendant was sentenced to 15 years in prison for Aggravated Assault. Raines has pending felony offenses in Grimes County and Washington County as well as another pending domestic violence charge with a different victim.

Assistant District Attorneys Amy Eades and Jessica Escue prosecuted the case for the State, with the assistance of Victim Assistance Coordinator Melissa Carter and Investigator Michael Johse.

