



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Brazos County Jury Sentences Man to Prison for Sexual Assault May 14, 2014**

Bryan, TX – On Tuesday, May 13th, 24-year-old Chase Blanchard was sentenced by a jury to 7 years in prison for a 2011 Sexual Assault. Blanchard pled guilty on Monday and jurors heard from four witnesses from the State as well as four from the defense.

The 18-year-old victim of the sexual assault testified that she had recently met Blanchard when he drove her out to a secluded area of Brazos County and then forced himself on her. She described the struggle between Blanchard and herself as he removed her shorts and then completed the sexual assault.

Police were called the night this occurred and one of the officers described the victim as scared and very emotional. The officer drove her to a hospital where she agreed to undergo a sexual assault exam by medical professionals.

The examining nurse walked the jury through the painful and embarrassing process of a sexual assault exam. She explained that she performed that process on the victim and collected physical evidence. Law enforcement was able to confirm the presence of the suspect's DNA in the samples collected from the victim's sexual assault exam.

Having no prior felony convictions, Blanchard was eligible for probation, and asked the jury for mercy. "We believe the jury understood the terror the victim experienced as she was assaulted by someone she thought she could trust and sentenced Blanchard accordingly. The jury sent a strong message that when you violate and hurt someone the way Blanchard did, you can expect prison as a consequence."

Blanchard will have to serve at least half of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole. John Brick and Clay Kimbrough prosecuted the case on behalf of the State.





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**- John Brick, Assistant District Attorney**

