



PRESS RELEASE

Man Sentenced To 25 Years For Aggravated Kidnapping

July 17, 2014

Lance Gentry, 36, of Brazos County was sentenced to 25 years in prison for Aggravated Kidnapping after pleading guilty to the charge. Gentry pled guilty following the presentation of evidence in his jury trial and prior to closing arguments.

Gentry also pled guilty to Assault Family Violence by Strangulation and was sentenced to 10 years in prison, the maximum sentence for that offense.

Assistant District Attorneys Kara Comte and Will Ward called seven witnesses during the two-day trial, including the victim of the offense. She testified that Gentry picked her up at her apartment on July 14, 2013. Rather than take her to her mother's residence as agreed, Gentry drove the victim to a large piece of property in rural Brazos County. Gentry disabled the passenger door of his truck and trapped her inside. Once at the property, Gentry attacked the victim, placing her in a choke hold and causing her to be unable to breathe. The victim was able to escape and return to the Smetana grocery where she called police.

During the investigation, officers found items at the property in rural Brazos County that corroborated the victim's statement, including the knife Gentry had used during the kidnapping.

Gentry will have to serve half of his sentence before being considered for parole. He was eligible to receive probation from a jury during the punishment phase of trial. Prosecutors intended to present evidence of other women Gentry had abused in his past during the punishment phase.

“This man is a dangerous individual who preys on women and exerts control over them through violence. As with many domestic violence cases, his actions escalated from harassing messages to violent behavior. The victim in this case was fortunate enough to fight back and escape. Our community is safer because the Defendant is in prison.” - Kara Comte, Assistant District Attorney

