



PRESS RELEASE

Man Who Preyed on Children Sentenced to 50 Years In Prison

June 10, 2021

Melvin Johnson, 52, was sentenced to 50 years in prison by Judge John Brick on Thursday after a jury convicted Johnson of two counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. Johnson faced a maximum possible sentence of life in prison.

On April 8, 2019, a 12-year-old girl disclosed to her mother that Johnson had sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions when she was 8 and 9 years old. Johnson was a friend of the child's family. Immediately after the child's disclosure, her mother reported the abuse to the Bryan Police Department. Detectives scheduled a forensic interview of the child at Scotty's House, Brazos County's Children's Advocacy Center.

During her forensic interview, the child gave details of the abuse that occurred when she was in the third grade. She told the interviewer that the abuse happened more than 40 times over that school year.

At trial, prosecutors called the child to testify and she described the sexual abuse in detail. Jurors also heard from the child's mother and grandmother, as well as the forensic interviewer and a medical professional from Scotty's House.

During the punishment phase, prosecutors presented evidence of Johnson's criminal history, including previous convictions for Burglary, Theft, and Resisting Arrest. Additionally, prosecutors showed that, while in the Brazos County Jail awaiting trial, Johnson made threats against the judge and one of the prosecutors.

Assistant District Attorneys Kara Comte and Ashley Martin prosecuted this case on behalf of the State of Texas.

“A 9-year-old child should never have to endure the abuse suffered in this case. This child's courage in has ensured that no other children will suffer at this man's hands.”

- Kara Comte and Ashley Martin, Assistant District Attorneys

