



## PRESS RELEASE

### Defendant Sentenced to 35 Years for Child Abuse December 12, 2022

Bryan, TX – Jose Godoy, Jr., of Bryan, Texas was sentenced to 35 years in prison for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child.

In August 2015, twin sisters told a trusted family member that Godoy had sexually abused one of the sisters in the presence of the other sister. Both children were interviewed at Scotty’s House as part of the resulting investigation by Child Protective Services and the Bryan Police Department. The victim of the abuse was not ready to detail the abuse during that interview, but her sister was able to disclose the abuse that she witnessed.

At trial, both sisters testified about the drug use and domestic violence present in the home. While the victim still struggled to open up about the details of the abuse she had suffered, she was able to tell the jury about the abuse through writing and diagrams. The victim’s sister was again able to help give her a voice by describing the abuse to the jury.

The jury also heard testimony from two experts, who testified about the dynamics of disclosure in child abuse cases and the effects of domestic violence on the disclosure process. The jury learned that many times, children do not immediately disclose sexual abuse and that the presence of violence in the home can further delay their outcry. The experts explained that every victim reacts differently, and some victims may never be ready to discuss the details of their abuse.

After the defendant was found guilty, Judge J.D. Langley sentenced the defendant to 35 years in prison. The jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning a guilty verdict.

The State of Texas was represented in this case by Assistant District Attorneys Kristin Burns and Ryan Golden, Investigator James “Woody” Woodward, and Victim Assistance Coordinator Mandie James.

**“A Brazos County jury was moved to action by the bravery of children who were abused by someone who was supposed to protect them. Their courage in this case was essential to justice being done.” - Asst. District Attorneys Kristin Burns and Ryan Golden**

