



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Man Sentenced to Prison for Aggravated Assault May 12, 2016**

Bryan, TX – Luke Gonzalez, 22, was sentenced to twelve and a half years in prison today for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

In March 2014, Bryan police were called to a residence for an assault in progress. The 911 caller reported that her daughter's ex-boyfriend, Gonzalez, was in the house holding her daughter at knifepoint. While trying to disarm him, the caller's boyfriend was stabbed multiple times but was able to subdue Gonzalez until police arrived. Even after officers arrived, Gonzalez continued to threaten and yell profanities and racial epithets at the victims and at officers. While one of the officers was attempting to secure him, Gonzalez spit in the officer's face.

At trial, the jury heard evidence that Gonzalez had threatened his ex-girlfriend's family weeks before the assault and had been told that he was not allowed on the property. After the jury found him guilty, the trial moved into the punishment phase where prosecutors presented evidence that Gonzalez had been supervised by the juvenile probation department for Possession of Marijuana in a Drug Free Zone in 2008 and again in 2010 for Theft. The jury also heard evidence that in 2012, Gonzalez came into the home of another ex-girlfriend and assaulted her. As a result of that assault, Gonzalez was ordered by the court to have no contact with the victim and was later convicted of Assault Family Violence. Despite the court's protective order, Gonzalez went back to the victim's home multiple times where he threatened the victim, confronted her parents, and took property belonging to her brother.

Consequently, Gonzalez was charged with multiple counts of Violation of a Protective Order and Theft. He was out on bond on those charges at the time of his arrest in March 2014. Gonzalez was also charged with Harassment of a Public Servant for spitting in the officer's face. Gonzalez asked the jury for probation but was instead sentenced to twelve and a half years in prison and must serve at least half of that sentence before becoming eligible for parole. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys R. Clay Kimbrough and Philip McLemore.

**The defendant's pattern of escalating domestic violence in this case warranted a strong response. This verdict protects the victims of that violence as well as our entire community. - R. Clay Kimbrough and Philip McLemore, Assistant District Attorneys**

