



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Domestic Violence Abusers Sentenced to Prison**

**October 14, 2019**

Bryan, TX – Over the last week, multiple defendants have received prison time for assaulting their ex-girlfriends. Today, Michael Shivers was sentenced to nine years in prison for assault family violence strangulation with a prior conviction. Shivers was convicted of the same offense by the 272nd jury on July 19, 2019, and it was reset for punishment.

Shivers's conviction arose after police responded to his home in response to his ex-girlfriend's 911 phone call. The victim reported the defendant strangled her after an argument arose about him using her vehicle. Once the victim called the police, the defendant fled the scene. Police found the victim hysterically crying with her children and with visible marks on her neck and face consistent with strangulation. The jury also heard evidence that the defendant had previously been convicted of assaulting the same victim while pregnant with their child, and that the police had responded to abuse reports multiple times involving the defendant.

In addition to his nine-year sentence, Shivers was convicted and sentenced to the maximum sentence for two counts of Abandoning a Child, and one count each of Criminal Trespass of a Habitation and False Report to a Police Officer for locking his small children in the victim's home while she was away from the residence and calling the police to report that they were abandoned. This incident occurred a week after the victim reported the strangulation incident to the police. The defendant's prior criminal history included multiple convictions for evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance, criminal mischief, and assault.

On Thursday, Cody Henley pled guilty to multiple family violence cases and received a four-year prison sentence. On June 27, 2017, Henley was arrested after he assaulted his wife. After he was arrested, the defendant was placed on standard family violence bond conditions. These conditions required that the defendant have no contact with the victim.





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While out on bond, the defendant violated these bond conditions multiple times by assaulting the victim on July 17, 2017, and November 2, 2017, assaulting his father on August 9, 2018, and contacting the victim multiple times. The defendant was also arrested for Driving While Intoxicated while on bond.

Henley was charged with misdemeanor assaults in addition to two counts of Violation of a Protective Order. Normally, violating bond conditions is a misdemeanor. However, because Henley violated his bond conditions on multiple occasions and by committing family violence, prosecutors charged him with a felony.

These cases were investigated by the Bryan Police Department and the Brazos County Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Escue, Steve Zimmerman, Amanda Koenig and Cahal McColgan.

