



# PRESS RELEASE

## Man Sentenced to Prison for Punching Child October 7, 2015

William Wagner, 41, was sentenced to 7 years in prison today for Injury to a Child. On August 3, 2014, police were called to an assault at a College Station residence. Wagner's girlfriend reported that Wagner was intoxicated and had kicked in the door to the house. She told police that she did not want to go back inside the residence for fear that he would assault her.

Inside the house were the girlfriend's three daughters, ages 10, 12, and 13. Wagner threw an upright vacuum cleaner at two of the girls and tried to punch the 12-year-old several times. He also punched the 10-year-old child in the face causing a bloody nose and lacerations to her lip.

In addition to the injuries the girls suffered, Wagner choked the family's dog and threw the dog over a fence near the house. Wagner also broke several televisions in the house, broke a bedroom door, and punctured multiple tires on the vehicles parked outside.

At trial, the jury heard from all three girls who testified as to Wagner's assault. It was only after Wagner's assault that all three girls were able to get outside to where their mother was standing.

The jury also heard from the girls' mother, who was uncooperative with prosecutors. On the witness stand, she acknowledged that she had attempted to have the charges against Wagner dropped and has talked and met with him several times since the assault on her daughter. She also stated that she recently sent all of her daughters to live with their grandmother.

The jury found Wagner guilty of Injury to a Child for punching the 10-year-old and found that the assault was an act of family violence. Prior to trial, Wagner elected to have his punishment assessed by the Judge in the event of a conviction.





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During the punishment phase, prosecutors presented evidence from Wagner's previous conviction for Injury to a Child in Waller County where he punched a 14-year-old girl in the face. Wagner also has multiple convictions for misdemeanor Assault, Driving with License Invalid, and Driving While Intoxicated with a Child.

Injury to a Child is a Third-Degree Felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Ryan Calvert and Philip McLemore.

**“Mr. Wagner has a history of violence against women and children. Punching a child in the face is never acceptable, and we’re grateful that the jury stood up for the children, especially when their mother would not.”**

**--Philip McLemore, Asst. District Attorney**

