

Penny gets life without parole for child sexual abuse

Written by Kerry Craig

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A Hopkins County man, David Ray Penny, 31, was convicted Wednesday in Hopkins County's Eighth District Court of continuous sexual abuse of a child less than 14 years of age.

After a jury returned the guilty verdict, District Judge Eddie Northcutt sentenced Penny to life in prison.

Penny had been accused of abusing the child over a period of years, from July 2006, through February 2013.

District Attorney Will Ramsay said this particular crime had a punishment range of 25 years to life in prison with no possibility of parole. He also said the verdict and sentence would be appealed.

Assistant District Attorney Peter Morgan, who prosecuted the case, said the abuse was not reported for several years because the child was unable to safely come forward until recently. He was very pleased with the outcome of the trial.

"This verdict and sentence sends a clear message that crimes against children in our community are not tolerated," Morgan said. "This office is particularly grateful for the good work of Sulphur Springs Detective Bo Fox and Rebecca Peevy of the Lamar County Child Advocacy Center who worked on this case."

Penny, who had been free bond since his arrest last October, was transported from the courtroom to Hopkins County jail, where he will await transfer to the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.