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WOMAN FOUND GUILTY ON TWO **COUNTS OF ENDANGERING A CHILD**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Wednesday, November 29, 2017, a Victoria jury found Eva Tina Delgado guilty of two counts of Endangering a Child. During the course of the trial, which commenced on Monday, November 27, 2017, the jury heard testimony from several members of the Victoria County Sheriff's Office describing how they came upon Miss Delgado's children who were left alone in a vehicle in the middle of the night without any adult supervision.

The evidence showed that on December 18, 2015 around 12:30 a.m., members of the Sheriff's Office Special Crimes Unit were conducting a proactive investigation in the Bloomington area in response to complaints of burglaries and narcotics activity when one investigator noticed a vehicle parked in what appeared to be a vacant lot. The vehicle was running and there appeared to be movement inside. A deputy approached the vehicle and upon looking inside, saw that there were four children in the vehicle. The officer also saw an open shot glass sitting on top of the center console in plain view and inside the shot glass was crack cocaine. Shortly after deputies arrived, a woman, later identified as Kimberly Villarreal emerged from an RV parked about 90 feet from the car, and ran to vehicle. Upon being questioned by officers, she admitted that of the four children in the car, one was hers, and the other three belonged to the defendant. The defendant came out of the trailer only after deputies yelled that if the mother of the remaining children did not come outside, they would be calling Child Protective Services. The defendant's children were aged 5, 7, and 8 at the time. When questioned as to where she lived, the defendant told the officers that she was currently homeless and takes the children everywhere with her. After she was arrested for leaving the children unsupervised in the vehicle in close proximity to crack cocaine, the defendant later admitted to officers that she did in fact have an apartment in Victoria and had left her 11 year old son there unsupervised. The Deputies were able to find family members to take custody of the children.

In the punishment phase of the trial, the jury heard that, on two prior occasions, law enforcement officials had executed search warrants at homes in which the defendant lived with her children and that each time, narcotics, including crack cocaine had been recovered from the home. In her testimony, defendant denied having any knowledge of the narcotics found in her homes.

Although the State requested that the jury send the defendant to the State Jail facility to be confined, the jury chose to sentence her to probation.

ADA Barbara Agbu prosecuted the case and was assisted by ADA Jacquelyn Johnson and ADA Thomas Dillard.