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## **CHILD MOLESTER BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AFTER RUNNING FOR 4 YEARS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Wednesday, March 7, 2017, a Victoria County jury found Daniel Oscar Gomez Sr, 54, guilty of Indecency with a Child by Sexual Contact. During the trial, the State presented evidence showing that on or about September 1, 2007, the Defendant, went to his then sleeping 8 year old granddaughter, and made genital contact with her. Evidence was also presented that the Defendant molested his biological daughter multiple times starting when his daughter was in the sixth grade. Additional evidence was presented that the Defendant also attempted to sexually assault his adult niece while she was sleeping. The totality of the evidence showed that the Defendant sexually molested and attempted to sexually assault members of his own family from 2002 through 2010. When asked about molesting his granddaughter, the Defendant said, "As far as I know, I didn't do this. If I was drunk, I don't know what I do when I'm drunk."

Charges were filed against the Defendant in April of 2010. The evidence at trial showed that the Defendant absconded from Victoria County until September of 2014. On jail calls, the jury heard the Defendant boast, "I got away in Houston twice and Austin too." However, all the Defendant's efforts to flee were for naught, as justice has finally caught up with him. At closing argument, ACDA Jacquelyn Johnson reminded jurors that if anyone harmed a child it would be better for that person to have a millstone hung around their neck and be cast into the sea. ACDA Johnson told the jury, "We don't have a millstone, but we have a jury that is going to do the right thing. You're the millstone." Victim's Assistance Coordinator Sara Bill, Investigator Stephen Allen, and ACDA Brendan Guy assisted in the prosecution of the Defendant.

The jury took approximately ten minutes to return the maximum sentence of 20 years plus a \$10,000 fine. Our office expresses its immense gratitude to the jury in this case for their continued attention in this two week trial and for bringing this child molester to justice. The jury expressed their hope that their verdict would provide closure for all of the Defendant's victims. The Defendant's daughter has been waiting 13 years for justice, while the Defendant's granddaughter has been waiting 8 years for justice. Our office is pleased that justice has finally been done in this case.

