



Stephen B. Tyler
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
205 N. BRIDGE, SUITE 301
VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901-8085
Phone: (361) 575-0468
Fax: (361) 576-4139



Jury finds Victoria Man Guilty of Burglary of a Habitation

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CONTACT: Steve Tyler
(361) 575-0468

On July 18th, 2017, a jury found a Victoria man guilty of Burglary of a Habitation. Cody Alan Shaw, 24, faced allegations that on June 29th, 2016, he entered the home of the mother of his ex-girlfriend and assaulted his girlfriend. The jury heard testimony that the defendant and victim were in a tumultuous relationship for nearly two years and that during the course of that relationship they had one child.

The victim testified that the relationship was an abusive one and that after an altercation on the night of June 28th, 2016, during which the defendant assaulted her, she decided to leave the defendant for good. However, due to the fact that the defendant had confiscated her phone and car keys, the victim could not leave of her own accord. She had to get to a computer in order to send a message asking for a ride to get her and her child away from the location. The following morning, Shaw showed up at the victim's mother's home while intoxicated, opened the garage using a garage door opener that he had obtained from the victim's vehicle, and entered the residence uninvited. He proceeded to assault the victim in the presence of their one-month-old child. He then attempted to take the child away from the location but his efforts were thwarted when the victim's mother returned home and was able to wrestle the child away from the defendant.

The victim called 911 and Victoria Police Department Officers were dispatched to the location. On the way there, one of the officers observed the defendant run a stop sign and a red light as he was fleeing the scene. The officer conducted a traffic stop and conducted an investigation after which the defendant was arrested for Burglary of a Habitation and Driving While Intoxicated. After hearing all the evidence, the jury deliberated for approximately 50 minutes before finding the defendant guilty.

The jury also assessed the defendant's punishment in this case. During the punishment phase of the trial, the jury heard evidence of other instances of the defendant's abusive behavior towards the victim. The jury also learned that, at the time the defendant committed the charged offense, he was on probation for Driving While Intoxicated in Caldwell County. After this phase of the trial concluded, the jury deliberated for another 50 minutes before assessing the defendant's punishment at 30 months imprisonment in the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Assistant District Attorneys Veronica Jones and Barbara Agbu prosecuted this case.