



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 Indecency with a Child

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Steve Tyler
(361) 575-0468

On April 13th, 2017, a jury returned a verdict of guilty in the case of a Victoria County man charged with indecency with a child. Luis Alonso Martinez Lopez, 59, was accused of exposing his genitals and masturbating in the backyard, while watching his neighbor's young children play outside. Two of the children ages 6 and 14 years, who were only separated from the defendant by a chain-link fence, testified that they could see the defendant exposing his genitals and "playing with himself". Additionally, the evidence showed that in 2014, the defendant had pulled her out of line while she was at school and had either kissed or hugged her. The jury also saw video footage of the defendant masturbating in the open by the same chain-link fence while watching the children playing.

The children's father, concerned about the defendant's behavior towards his children, captured the video and alerted the Victoria Police Department. Upon being contacted by police, the defendant initially claimed to have never been outside, insisting that he had been sleeping in his home since the previous night. When confronted with the video placing him outside, Martinez finally admitted that he had in fact been outside, but only to work in his yard. He also claimed that he did not notice any children playing in the backyard. However, the video contradicted this claim as it showed the defendant's attention was squarely focused on the kids. After 45 minutes deliberating, the jury found the defendant guilty.

During the punishment phase of the trial, the jury heard from the defendant's neighbors who testified that they had previously had to alert law enforcement multiple times regarding the defendant's odd behavior. In one instance, the defendant exposed himself while urinating outside in the presence of the children. Another child witness also testified that in 2010 when she was 7 years old, the defendant, who was her grandparents' neighbor at the time, lured her to his yard, exposed himself to her, and touched her genitals.

After hearing all the punishment evidence, the jury deliberated for another hour before assessing the defendant's punishment at the maximum allowable sentence, 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Assistant District Attorneys Barbara Agbu and Brendan Guy prosecuted this case.

