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MAN CONVICTED OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Wednesday, April 26, 2017, a Victoria County jury convicted Marcus Deshawn Cooks of the second degree felony of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. At trial, the State presented evidence showing that on October 7, 2016, the Defendant handed a .45 caliber handgun to Victor Alvarado, who pointed the firearm at a Bloomington family. Evidence showed that the Defendant drove his vehicle past the family's residence, turned around, and began to argue with a member of the victim's family prior to the assault. Sgt. Justin Marr of the Victoria County Sheriff's Office stopped the Defendant's vehicle minutes later and arrested both the Defendant and Victor Alvarado. The Defendant was convicted under a section of the penal code that holds responsible those who aid or encourage another's criminal act.

At closing argument, ACDA Thomas Dillard argued that the Defendant was ultimately responsible for creating the situation and that a simple finger twitch would have transformed this offense into a much more tragic crime. The jury deliberated over the course of two days before returning a guilty verdict. The State argued at the punishment phase that the Defendant had never taken responsibility for his role in endangering the lives of a mother and her children. The jury deliberated for less than two hours before sentencing the Defendant to eight years in prison and imposing a maximum fine of \$10,000. ACDA Brendan Guy assisted in the prosecution of this case.

