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## **PRESS RELEASE: 10/4/2023**

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## Magnolia Man Who Abused Multiple Boys Receives Life

| Name:           | Larry Dean Cole   |
|-----------------|---|
| Age:            | 63  |
| Court:          | 9th District Court, Judge Phil Grant presiding          |
| <b>Charges:</b> | Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, 1st Degree Felony |
| Plea:           | Not Guilty  |
| Verdict:        | By jury: Guilty on 09/27/2023                           |
| Sentence:       | By judge: Life on 09/29/2023                            |
|                 |   |

**Chief Prosecutor Laura Bond:** "Larry Cole has finally been sent to the very place he belongs. This would not have been possible without the extraordinary bravery and tremendous courage of those who came forward to do the right thing at all stages of the investigation in this case. These families have suffered through a prolonged nightmare, but at long last, justice has found Larry Cole." Wednesday, September 27, 2023, Larry Dean Cole of Navasota, Texas received a life sentence for the sexual abuse of several children in the Timbergreen neighborhood, with acts of abuse recorded between 2004 and 2015. He will not be eligible for parole until he has served at least thirty years of his sentence.

**District Attorney Brett Ligon:** "Larry Cole took a neighborhood's trust in one another and twisted it into something evil. Life imprisonment was the only appropriate response to this evil, and we are grateful that our Montgomery County Jury and a Montgomery County Judge did what needed to be done." The trial began on September 25, 2023, when Chief Prosecutor Laura Bond began the jury selection for the case. In her opening statement, Assistant District Attorney Tamara Tyler described Cole as a man who sexually abused multiple boys in his neighborhood. ADA Tyler told the jury that "Timbergreen was Larry Cole's playground. The boys were his toys. And (victim) was his favorite toy."

In addition to hearing from the named victim, prosecutors presented evidence of Cole's abuse of five other young boys, several of whom did not know one another, but all of who described similar abuse by Cole. Prosecutors showed the jury how Cole attracted boys to himself by throwing parties, taking them on hunting trips, and giving them access to alcohol. Further, witnesses testified as to how Cole would manipulate them into not reporting the abuse immediately.

In the punishment phase of the trial, ADA's Bond and Tyler offered heart-wrenching testimonies from the victims' family members, who recounted the immense suffering and challenges their boys faced due to Cole's despicable actions.

After hearing argument from prosecutors, Judge Phil Grant sentenced Cole to Life. Cole will be required to register as a sex offender for life.

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