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MAN SENTENCED TO FIFTY YEARS FOR CONTINUOUS SEXUAL ABUSE OF TWO CHILDREN

Name: Tonny Lynn Mills
Age: 44
Court: 221st District Court, Judge Michalk presiding
Charges: 1) Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child, 1st Degree Felony
Plea: Not Guilty
Verdict: By jury: Guilty on 05/09/2023
Sentence: By jury: 50 years on 05/10/2023



Tonny Lynn Mills, a resident of Willis, Texas, was handed a 50-year prison sentence on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, following his conviction for sexually abusing a child repeatedly between the Fall of 2019 and the Spring of 2021. Based on the nature of the conviction, Mills will never be eligible for parole.

Assistant District Attorney Ryan Fuller began jury selection and presented testimony starting Monday, May 8. The jury listened to the harrowing account of the 13-year-old victim, who courageously recounted the instances of sexual abuse perpetrated by Tonny Mills from 2019 to 2021, abuse which finally came to light when the victim confided in her parents. Willis Police Department initiated an investigation upon arriving at the victim's residence on June 1, 2021. This investigation unveiled an additional victim, aged 14 at the time of her abuse, who provided a similar account of the Defendant's abuse that transpired over several months in their home in Willis, Texas.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of law enforcement, Children's Safe Harbor, and the dedicated medical professionals at Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, charges were filed against Tonny Lynn Mills for Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child. During the trial, both young girls displayed immense bravery as they testified about the traumatic experiences they endured at the hands of the Defendant. After careful deliberation, the jury returned a guilty verdict against the Defendant for continuously sexually abusing these young victims.

In the subsequent punishment phase, Assistant District Attorney Ryan Fuller presented evidence of the Defendant's prior criminal history, including previous incarceration in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division. After considering this evidence, the jury rendered a sentence of 50 years, effectively ensuring that Tonny Lynn Mills will be prevented from causing harm to another child for the remainder of his natural life.

Prosecutor Ryan Fuller: "It is never easy for a child to come forward and speak about the worst moments of their young lives. We are in awe of the fortitude that each victim showed as they sat across from the Defendant, told their truth, and empowered the jury to stop this man once and for all."

District Attorney Brett Ligon: "The healing journey for sexually abused children is immensely challenging, made worse when abusers avoid responsibility for their crimes. Thankfully, real accountability was delivered to the Defendant, and rightly so. We remain committed to supporting survivors and pursuing justice for those who've endured such unthinkable acts."