

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Austin County jury convicted Leonard Pickron, 26, of Sealy, Texas of Murder on Thursday, November 6, 2015 after 4 days of evidence. The jury then sentenced him to Life in prison in District Judge Jeff Steinhauer's court.

Pickron was charged with murdering his foster mother, Miraunda Jackson, on May 10, 2011 by grabbing her steering wheel while she was driving and forcing their vehicle into the lane of an oncoming heavy duty utility truck. Ms. Jackson was killed by the crash. Pickron survived with minor injuries.

Pickron's trial had been delayed several times in the last four years, often due to issues relating to whether he was competent to stand trial.

First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson presented the case with aid from Assistant District Attorney Jesse Skinner and Legal Assistant Lisa Tobola. Defense attorney Calvin Garvie, of Bellville, represented the defendant.

The State presented fourteen witnesses and around 100 exhibits through the course of the five day trial. The Defense presented six witnesses and one exhibit.

The jury deliberated approximately 40 minutes before returning with its verdict of guilty.

Pickron elected to have the jury decide his punishment. The Defense offered evidence that Pickron suffered from mild mental retardation. The State offered evidence that Pickron had a history of violent offenses and committed assaults in jail while awaiting trial.

The jury handed down a Life sentence after deliberating 20 minutes. Pickron will not be eligible for parole until 2041 when he is 56 years old.

First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson stated, "Our hearts go out to the victim's family. Miraunda Jackson dedicated her life to helping those with disabilities, and she will be deeply missed. Fortunately, the utility truck driver, Carlos Gomez, survived and flew back to Texas from Mexico just to testify. He received severe leg injuries from the crash and suffers from a permanent limp."

"We also greatly appreciate the efforts of Brian Honafius and Robert Preuss, who stopped on the roadway to render vital assistance to Mr. Gomez at the crime scene and were willing to testify."

District Attorney Travis Koehn stated, "I'm proud of the hard work of my office and the work of Ranger Brian Taylor, along with D.P.S. Troopers Josh West and Jeff Grobe in bringing this murderer to justice. We're also grateful to Judge Dennis King for his thorough inquest."

Koehn added, "I think the jury's quick verdict showed their confidence in their decision. It sends a clear message that any violent crime in Austin County will not be tolerated."