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May 24, 2021 Press Release from Austin County District Attorney's Office:

An Austin County jury gave a local man the maximum punishment for Indecency With A Child in court action last Friday before District Judge Jeff Steinhauser.

The jury of eight women and four men sentenced Cesar Urbina, 38, of Industry to Life in prison for the crime that occurred in 2018. The jury also assessed a \$10,000 fine.

The jury deliberated about 15 minutes before returning the guilty verdict. After hearing punishment evidence, the jury took 30 minutes to give the longest sentence possible.

Testimony showed that Urbina had sexual contact with a 11-year-old girl at a party near Shelby.

First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson also presented witnesses who said that Urbina had improperly touched a six-year-old girl on a separate occasion.

Family members and school officials also testified how Urbina's actions affected the victims. Therapists from Children's Advocacy Center in Fort Bend County also presented evidence.

Jury selection was held at Christian City Fellowship between Sealy and Bellville on Monday to provide for proper spacing and Covid related precautions.

Evidence started Tuesday in the Austin County Courthouse where the District Courtroom was rearranged. The jury sat in the gallery of the courtroom to allow for spacing. Witnesses testified from the jury box.

The public watched the trial in the basement meeting room of the courthouse on a TV that had a "zoom" link to the proceedings.

Assistant District Attorney Ben Nystrom and paralegal Lisa Tobola were instrumental in presenting the evidence and witnesses during the week-long trial.

Brandy Robinson said she was pleased that the jury returned the long prison sentence.

"We showed the jury that Urbina had been to prison before for felony drugs and bail jumping," Robinson stated.

"More importantly, the young victims in this case came forward to say what happened and how it has affected their lives," Robinson added. "I'm so proud of these two girls who overcame tremendous fears to testify against their abuser."

"Their courage, along with the support of their family members, made all the difference in this case."

District Attorney Travis Koehn was pleased with the outcome of the trial.

"We'd had to modify the facilities and procedures for trials due to Covid restrictions," Koehn said. "Christian City Fellowship, the Austin County Sheriff's Office, the District Clerk, and the County Clerk all worked together for this trial to take place."