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To: Press

From: 33rd/424th Judicial District Attorney's Office - Blanco County

Re: Trial Concluded April 16, 2025; Defendant sentenced on May 16, 2025

Woman Given Maximum Sentences for Sexual Assault of a Child and Endangering a Child

On Friday, May 16, 2025, Judge J. Allan Garrett of the 33rd District Court sentenced Alieca Deshane to twenty years in prison after a Blanco County jury found her guilty of Sexual Assault of a Child. The jury also found Deshane guilty of Endangering a Child, and Judge Garrett sentenced Deshane to two years in a State Jail Facility on that charge. The sentence for each charge is the maximum punishment allowed by law.

Deshane abused the 14-year old victim along with her co-defendant, Gerald Vessels, who was previously sentenced to fifteen years in prison. The victim told a friend who then reported the abuse to the school counselor and the Blanco County Sheriff's Department. At trial the jury heard compelling testimony from the victim, who described the abuse in detail. The jury also heard testimony from a forensic interviewer with the Hill Country Child Advocacy Center who specializes in interviewing children who are the victims of crime.

Assistant District Attorneys Kelly Bazie and Michael Walker presented the case for the State. In addition to the child victim and community partners from the Hill Country Children's Advocacy Center, witnesses included the child's friend and the friend's mother, who alerted the authorities, members of the Blanco County Sheriff's Office, a school counselor with the Blanco Middle School, and a CASA volunteer. The Defendant was represented by attorney Ross Lavin.

Bazie praised the verdict, saying, "We are grateful for the judge's sentence, and for the members of the jury who delivered justice in this case. The victim, her friends and the adults who supported her can be very proud that they had the courage to speak up and put a stop to this abuse." Walker added, "The jury reached the right verdict, and we're glad this child abuser is out of our community for a long time."

District Attorney Perry Thomas stated "Everyone in our community can be proud of law enforcement and all the community partners who made sure that justice was done for this child. The District Attorney's office is committed to protecting children, and this case shows that any person who harms a child in our community will be held accountable."