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40 YEARS FOR CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTER

Convicted child molester Gene Edward Loftis, age 57, of Waxahachie, was sentenced on Friday, April 8, 2011, to 40 years in prison by Judge Bob Carroll, 40th Judicial District Court of Ellis County. Loftis must serve a minimum of 20 years before he can be considered for parole. Loftis pleaded guilty to the charge, and he waived his right to appeal the sentence.

Loftis was convicted of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child. At the time of the crime, in June 2010, Loftis was known in his neighborhood for selling candy and snacks from his apartment. His victim was an 8 year old girl who went to Loftis's apartment to purchase candy. The assault occurred in his apartment. The victim made an immediate outcry to her mother, and Loftis was arrested by the Waxahachie Police Department the same day.

County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson made the following statement: "This crime is every parent's worst nightmare. Nothing can heal the damage that Loftis did to his victim and her family. But this plea agreement, entered into with their consent, means that little girl won't have to testify in open court against her abuser. And she and her family won't have to deal with the anxiety and uncertainty of a trial and appeal. Practically speaking, Loftis will probably never again be a free man."

