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FORMER POLICE OFFICER CONVICTED OF INDECENCY WITH A CHILD – SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON

On Friday, December 16, 2011, an Ellis County jury sentenced Bobby Joe Hall, 56, of Burleson, Texas, to a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. On Thursday, the same jury had convicted Hall of Indecency With a Child, a 2nd degree felony.

Hall is a former police officer with various agencies around the state of Texas and in Oklahoma. During the trial the jury heard evidence that Hall engaged in sexual conduct with his victim, provided the child with illegal drugs, and prostituted the child for drugs.

During the punishment phase of the trial Hall's defense counsel submitted Hall's medical records to the jury, and asked for lenience because of his poor health. In response, Assistant County & District Attorney Rickey Sipes told the jury, "If Hall dies in prison because of his actions, so be it."

"Once again a jury has sent a strong message that these kinds of crimes will not be tolerated in Ellis County. We extend our thanks to the jury for their work, and for protecting our children," said County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson.