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Jury Sentences Habitual Felony Offender to Sixty Years in Prison

An Austin County Jury found Damien Eveline of Sealy guilty of Tampering with Evidence before District Judge Jeff Steinhauser on May 3, 2023.

The jury deliberated 1 hour and 20 minutes before returning the guilty verdict.

The jury later sentenced Eveline (44) to 60 years in the Texas Department of Corrections.

Eveline was charged with flushing evidence down a toilet while officers executed a search warrant at his motel room. Officers obtained a search warrant for his motel room after Eveline sold drugs three times in 2022 to undercover law enforcement.

Eveline saw police approaching his motel room and ran to flush evidence.

Officers caught Eveline inside the bathroom and found trace amounts of methamphetamine in the room.

Officers also found a digital scale, baggies, and trace amounts of methamphetamine in Eveline's room.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Nystrom presented the State's case along with legal assistant Lisa Tobola.

The jury found Eveline was a Habitual Felony Offender under the law. Eveline had been previously sentenced to---and released from--- prison 5 times.

Additionally, the State presented evidence that Eveline had multiple other convictions beginning in 1997, including Aggravated Assault with a knife, Driving While Intoxicated, Assault Family Violence, and multiple drug offenses.

The jury deliberated about two and a half hours before sentencing Eveline to 60 years in prison.

Bellville Defense Attorney John Anderson represented Eveline.

Records show that Eveline has been jailed in Austin County 22 times.

His latest conviction is the result of investigations by the Westside Narcotics Task Force.

This group includes officers from local law enforcement along with Federal ATF and DEA agents.

"Damien Eveline is a career criminal," District Attorney Travis J. Koehn said. "Our local officers did a great job of putting a stop, or at least a long pause, to his criminal endeavors."

Eveline will not be eligible for parole consideration until 2037.

"Eveline was given literally a dozen opportunities to change his behavior throughout his life." Assistant District Attorney Nystrom stated.

"The jury's sentence shows Austin County will not tolerate someone who spends his life hurting others and polluting the community with drugs," Nystrom added.