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District Judge Jeff Steinhauser last Thursday handed down the harshest possible punishment to a Wallis man for sexual abuse of a child.

David Ray McGee, 49, pled guilty to Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child under 6 Years Old and Indecency with a Child and elected to have the judge, rather than a jury, determine his fate.

Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child under 6 carries a punishment range of 25 years to Life, with no eligibility for parole. Indecency with a Child carries a punishment range of 2 to 20 years in prison.

Judge Steinhauser heard punishment evidence from the State and Defense on June 29, 2017. He then assessed McGee's punishment at Life Without Parole and a \$10,000.00 fine for the sexual assault charge and 20 years in prison with another \$10,000.00 fine for the indecency charge.

First Assistant District Attorney Brandy Robinson presented evidence that McGee and the five year old victim's mother conspired to sexually assault the child several times at McGee's Wallis home.

Evidence showed over a period of months McGee regularly sexually abused the child, requested dozens of child pornography videos of the victim's abuse, and sent text messages about the illegal activities. The punishment evidence included videos of McGee abusing the child.

Detective Timothy Ramirez of the Victoria Police Department interviewed the victim's mother in Victoria after receiving a tip regarding child pornography. He discovered child pornography on her cell phone during the interview.

Investigator Wilmer McLeroy of the Victoria Police Department then performed an in-depth cell phone analysis and discovered additional information incriminating McGee.

The Attorney General's Office referred the case to Fort Bend District Attorney Investigator Bruce Moats. Moats works on a regional Internet Crimes Against Children task force that covers Austin County, TX.

Moats, along with Wallis Police Chief David Moseley and federal officers, executed arrest and search warrants on McGee's home and recovered additional evidence.

Bellville attorney Jim Elick represented McGee. Elick presented evidence and argued that McGee suffered from alcohol, drug, and sex addictions which could be treated effectively with counseling.

McGee had no prior criminal history. Elick asked for the minimum 25 year sentence while the State asked for Life.

McGee previously pled guilty to 27 years on related federal charges. The child's mother pled to 24 years on federal charges.

The woman still has charges pending for Possession of Child Pornography in Victoria County, where she was apprehended, as well as charges of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child in Goliad County, where she resided.

District Attorney Travis Koehn stated, "We are extremely grateful to the state and federal agents who brought David Ray McGee to justice."

"The officers did an excellent job of recovering evidence, coordinating, and testifying in this very complex investigation to ensure the State would have the strongest possible evidence," Koehn added.

Robinson said, "We appreciate the result. This is one of the most horrific child abuse cases I've seen in my career."

Robinson added, "McGee will die in prison. Nothing less would have been appropriate in this case."