



ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN RECEIVES MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR SPITTING ON DEPUTY

An Ellis County jury deliberated for approximately 30 minutes before returning guilty verdicts against Brannon Parsons, 37, of Lancaster, Texas, for Possession of Methamphetamine, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and Harassment by a Person in a Correctional Facility. Parsons was sentenced to a maximum of 20 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine for the methamphetamine charge, and the maximum of 10 years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine on the other two felony charges. All sentences will run concurrently, or at the same time.

On August 3, 2017, Deputy George Williams with the Ellis County Sheriff's Department responded to a suspicious vehicle call in whi.

h the citizen caller reported a pick-up had ran off the road nearly striking his parked truck. The pick-up momentarily got stuck in the mud, but was able to drive off before the deputy arrived, leaving the front bumper behind. As the deputy was talking to the caller, Parsons returned to the scene. He was ultimately arrested and in his pocket was over 6 grams of methamphetamine. The deputy checked the truck and learned it had been stolen out of Dallas. Charles Johnson, the owner of the pick-up, testified that the truck had been stolen from in front of his house. He also testified that when he picked his vehicle up it had damage to the steering column and ignition, as well as missing the front bumper.

At the jail, Parsons was placed in a detox cell because he was believed to be under the influence of methamphetamine and acting disruptive. When the jailor brought him a mat and sheet, Parsons spit saliva in the jailors face, getting in his eyes and mouth. Under Texas Law this is a 3rd degree felony offense entitled Harassment by Person in a Correctional Facility.

After returning the guilty verdicts, the jury heard punishment evidence consisting of Parsons' 6 prior felony convictions for offenses including Possession of Controlled Substance, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and Evading Arrest with a Vehicle. The jury also heard details of an incident while Brannon Parsons was incarcerated awaiting trial in which he damaged a computer in the jail while on a conference call with a medical doctor.

