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Prepared by: Ellis County & District Attorney's Office  
109 S. Jackson Street  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Contact: Ann Montgomery, 972-825-5035 (ann.montgomery@co.ellis.tx.us)

**LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE.** Jury convicts sex offender under “Jessica’s Law.” 20 year sentence also ordered.

On Friday, September 16, members of an Ellis County Jury took less than 35 minutes to convict 50 year old Robert Kevin Cox of Waxahachie for the felony offense of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child and Indecency With a Child. The charge of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child, commonly referred to as “Jessica’s Law,” carries a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison with no possibility of parole. In 2005, 9 year old Jessica Lunsford of Florida was kidnapped, sexually assaulted and murdered by a convicted sex offender. The Texas legislature enacted “Jessica’s Law” in 2007, to provide for harsh punishment of offenders like Robert Kevin Cox who commit two or more acts of sexual abuse to a young child during a period that is 30 days or more in duration. Prosecutor Lindy Tober told the jurors that Robert Kevin Cox should spend the rest of his life in prison dealing with the consequences of his actions, because the victim will spend her life dealing with what he did to her. The jury sentenced him to Life in prison on the Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Young Child and the maximum of 20 years in prison for the Indecency With a Child. Judge Bob Carroll of the 40<sup>th</sup> District Court ordered those sentences are to run consecutively. At the time of trial Cox was free on \$105,000.00 bail for the two charges.

County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson made the following statement: “There is no happy ending for anyone involved in this type of case. There is only a just ending. Justice was served by the jury. We are grateful for their verdicts.”

