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JURY SENTENCES MAN TO 99 YEARS FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE

A 60-year-old Ennis man was sentenced to 99 years in prison for repeatedly assaulting his girlfriend.

On July 17, 2014, Ellis County jurors deliberated just under 30 minutes before convicting Russell Robinson, Jr. of continuous violence against the family. On July 18, 2014, the same jury deliberated into the evening before assessing a punishment of 99 years in prison for Robinson.

During the trial, prosecutors Amy Lockhart and Habon Mohamed presented evidence that on November 14, 2013, Robinson and his live-in girlfriend, got into an argument. Robinson ordered her to leave his house and as she was attempting to leave, he grabbed her by her hair and forcibly dragged her out of the car and into the house. Robinson continued to assault his girlfriend throughout the night by hitting her in the head and face. At one point, Robinson threatened to kill her. Robinson's girlfriend managed to call the police. Ennis Police Department officers responded to Robinson's house and arrested Robinson after observing injuries on the girlfriend. The jury also heard evidence that between August 2013 and November 2013, Robinson had assaulted his girlfriend multiple times. A witness testified that she had seen Robinson's girlfriend with a busted lip and a black eye as a result of a prior assault by Robinson. Lastly, prosecutors presented evidence of prior incidents where Robinson held a gun to his girlfriend's head, and where he threatened her with a butcher knife.

During the punishment phase of the trial, prosecutors presented evidence about Robinson's lengthy criminal history, which included convictions for attempted murder and aggravated assault. The jury heard evidence that Robinson had been abusing women for over 20 years. Two of Robinson's previous girlfriends testified that he was also abusive to them. One of the women described an incident where Robinson had stabbed her with a pair of scissors. Because he was a repeat offender, Robinson faced from 25 years to 99 years/life in prison.

County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson made the following statement: "The jury's verdict in this case sends a significant message to this defendant and to the community that we take domestic violence seriously in Ellis County."



