



Contact:

Jessica Escue

Phone: 979-361-4320

After Hours:

979-220-4841

Twitter:

@BrazosCountyDA

Email:

jescue@brazoscountytexas.gov

Press Release

For Immediate Release

July 1, 2014

Man Sentenced to 6 years for Family Violence

On Tuesday, July 1, David Beal, 27, pled guilty to continuous violence against a family member, a third degree felony, and was sentenced to serve 6 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division.

On March 6, 2014, Beal was indicted for Continuous Assault against the mother of his children. The indictment alleged five separate acts of violence committed against the same victim within a seven month period. Although family violence is normally punished as a Class A misdemeanor, it can be enhanced to a third degree felony if two or more acts of family violence is committed within a 12 month period.

From April 2013 to November 2013, Beal's victim sustained multiple injuries, including bruising all over her face and body, and strangulation.

On February 7, 2014, af-

ter the November assault, prosecutors filed a motion to increase Beal's bond and had a hearing in front of Judge Langley. During that hearing, Assistant District Attorney Jason Goss asked that Beal's bond be increased to \$150,000.00 because Beal's actions, while on bond for family violence, represented a danger to his victim and the community. Judge Langley agreed and set bond at \$150,000.00. Beal has been incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail from that date forward.

About the law, Goss said, "The Continuous Family Violence statute is a recognition by the legislature that family violence poses a special kind of threat to both the victims and the community. The enhancement provision for repeated acts of family violence has been effective in allowing the community to intervene on behalf of someone trapped in an abusive situ-



David Beal

ation."

Regarding the 6 year sentence, Goss said, "Every day in Brazos County, women are suffering silently in the cycle of violence. It is our obligation as a community to break that cycle".

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—Jason Goss