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# Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## Man Sentenced to Prison for Arson

Bryan, TX – Robert Goethe, 43, of Hearne, was sentenced to eight years in prison today for Arson of a Habitation.

Goethe pled guilty to the charge in March, and the case proceeded to trial in the 361st District Court on the issue of punishment.

Prosecutors presented evidence that on March 23, 2011 Goethe set fire to the home of his ex-wife's boyfriend. Goethe's ex-wife, her boyfriend, a relative of the boyfriend, and Goethe's three children were all inside the house at the time the fire was set.

A neighbor of the victim described seeing Goethe's truck pull

into the neighborhood just after 2:00 am. Goethe approached the home and tried repeatedly to set the fire, only to have the wind blow it out.

On Goethe's fourth attempt, the exterior wall of the home caught fire. Once the fire began, Goethe returned to his truck and left the neighborhood before police arrived.

The homeowner testified that he was awakened by a relative yelling that the house was on fire. Everyone evacuated the home and the fire was put out with a water hose.

An arson investigator confirmed that Goethe used an accelerant to start the fire.



Goethe had no prior criminal history.

Goethe must serve at least 4 years before becoming eligible for parole.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Ryan Calvert and Philip McLemore.

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**“This case was about domestic violence and anger. Goethe did all he needed to do to kill six people. Anyone who resorts to violence to control a spouse will face harsh consequences.” - Ryan Calvert**